Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

9

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Chapter:95 The Setup

Chapter:96 Apparati

Chapter:97 Furious

Chapter:98 Karma

Chapter:99 To Arms

Chapter:100 Fires of War

Chapter:101 Music to the Ear

Chapter:102 Infinite Hell

Chapter:103 Hard Luck

Chapter:104 Fever Pitch

Chapter:105 Conversation

Chapter:106 Flash of Light

Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

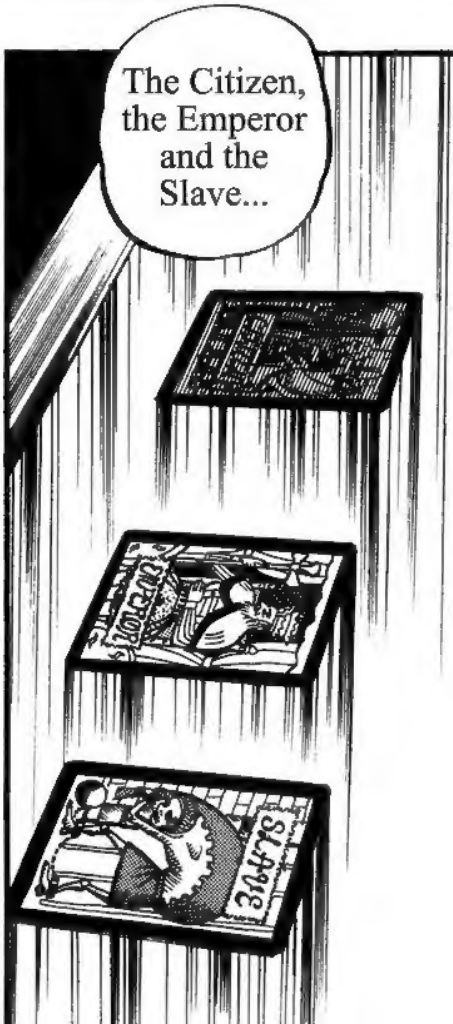
Chapter 95: The Setup

ざわ…
ざわ

ざわ…

Hmph ...
ざわ

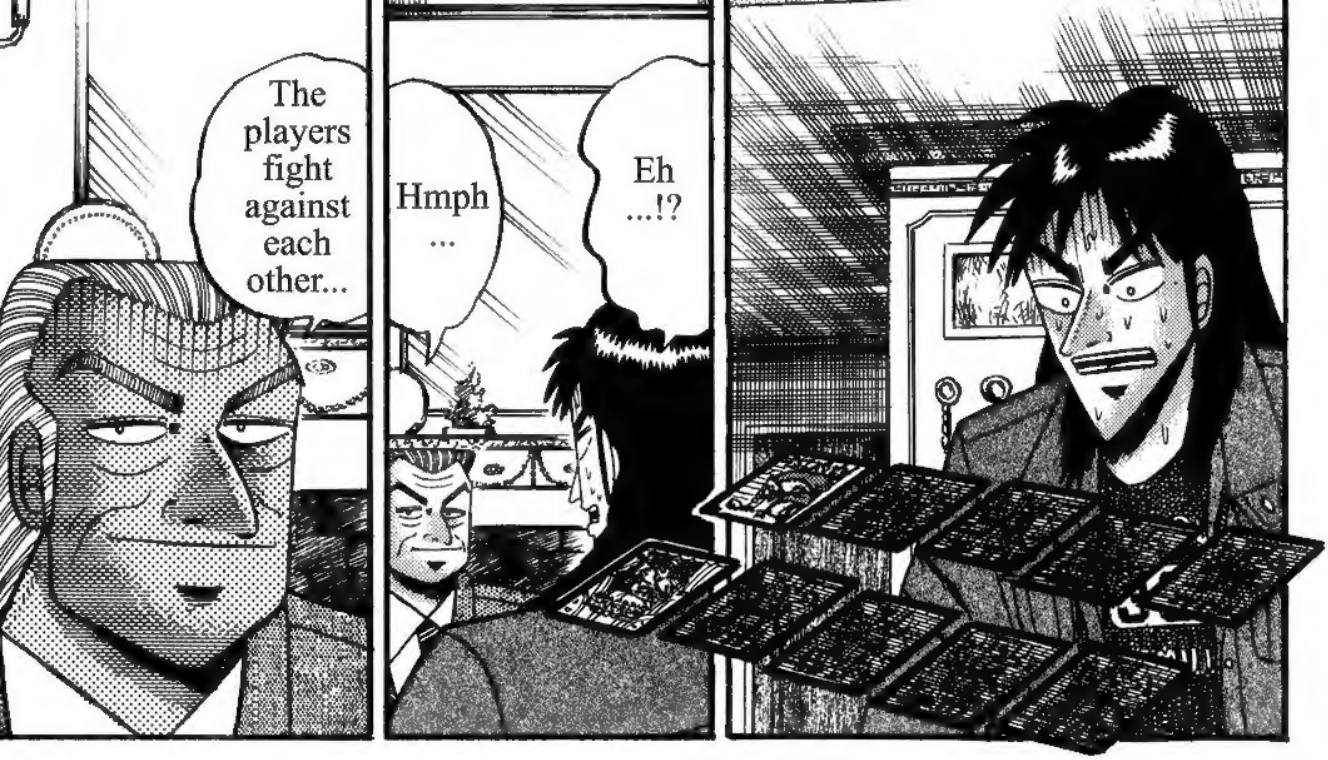
These are the 3 cards used...
.....

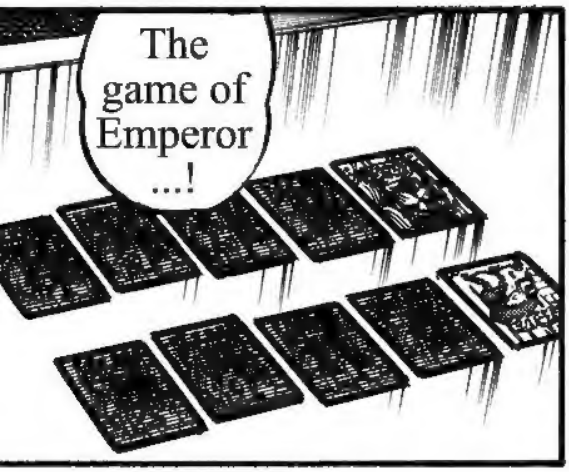

The Citizen, the Emperor and the Slave...
SLAVE

...however, 8 of those 10 are the first card...
...when playing Emperor. A total of 10 cards are dealt...

In other words...
...the Citizen!
FWAP
There is only one of each ...!
...only the Emperor and the Slave are unique.
Hmph ...
THWIP
Obviously, these two cards hold the key to winning the game...
.....
After all, Kaiji-kun...
...how the game is played.
THUD
...I think you can determine ...
Now that you've seen the cards...
Huh ...?
Do you understand ...?

...I guess it can't be helped ...
In that case ...
How should I know how the game is played ...!?
Get real...!
...you're a clever guy!
Two players ...
Allow me to elaborate.
Hehehe...
Two sides ...
...which are determined from the start.
Those cards are split into two teams...
...splitting these 10 cards, 5 apiece.
...face off against each other...
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
EMPEROR
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
Either the Emperor's ...
SLAVE
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
...or the Slave's!

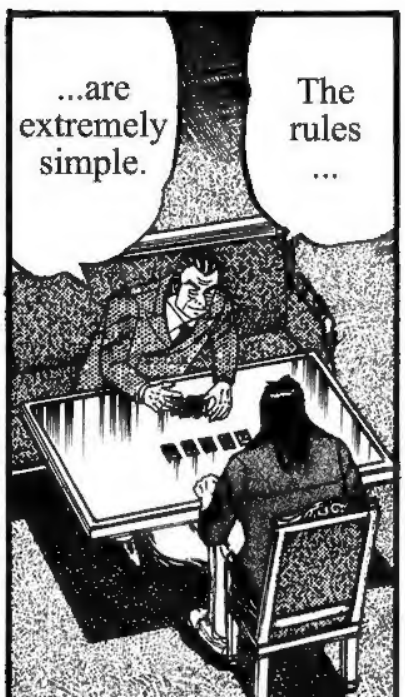

The players fight against each other...
Hmph ...
Eh ...!?


The game of Emperor ...!

... three hands!
... switching sides every...

...so that your opponent cannot see them.
.....

You hold your cards like so...


...are extremely simple.
The rules ...

You select one card...
...and lay it face down on the table.
Once that's been done...
...the other side likewise chooses a card...
...and lays it face down...
...on the table!
THWAP
Once we've both laid our cards...
...our next step...
...is to show them!
FWIP
That's all there is to it...!

That, of course, is why the game itself...
...is clearly the Emperor.
EMPEROR
The strongest card..
...it's just as the pictures should lead you to expect.
basically
As for which card beats which...
...it is the Emperor who rules!
.....
After all...
...is known as Emperor!
EMPEROR
Downtrodden by all, at the very end of his rope...
The Slave is a man with nothing...
The lowest of the cards...
The Slave ...!
...comes the only card remaining ...
THWAP
...is the Citizen!
Next in strength ...
After the Citizen ...

ERS
...the Slave can defeat the Emperor!
Because he has absolutely nothing ...
However ...
...and nothing left to lose...
Hehehe ...
...is simple fantasy. Such events don't occur in real life...
FWIP
Regardless ...
...a story like that ...
Hmph... of course...
...which is truly the most terrifying.
Think of it as a fable. You see, it is the desperate wrath of those who have not...

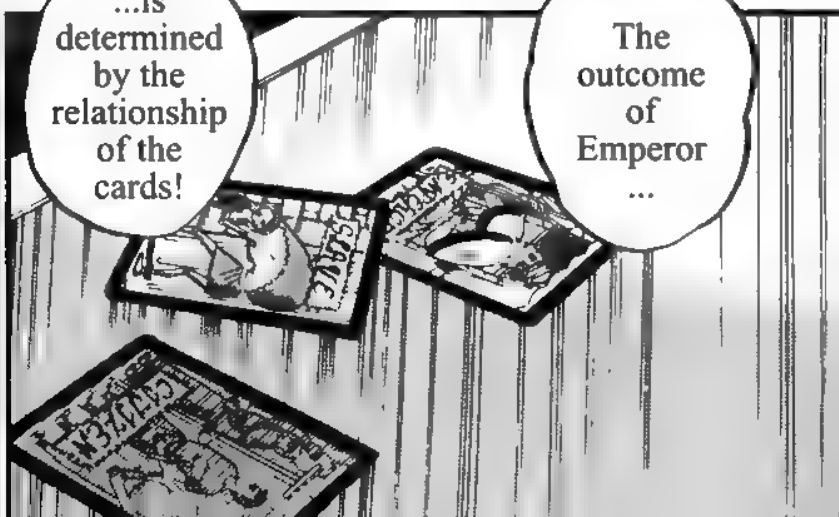
"Agame based on simple reality would be insipid...
Remember what the director said earlier.
Those are the rules ...!
...in the game of Emperor, it is the Slave which defeats the Emperor!
THWAP
SLAVE
...necessary to defeat the emperors.
In truth, the "slaves" of the real world lack the resolve...
.....
...so we have introduced a level of fancy."
Humans, you see...
At most there is one such man among every 1,000... every 10,000 people...!
...who was capable, just as in our game defeating the Emperor is not so easily done.
Even if there was one among them...

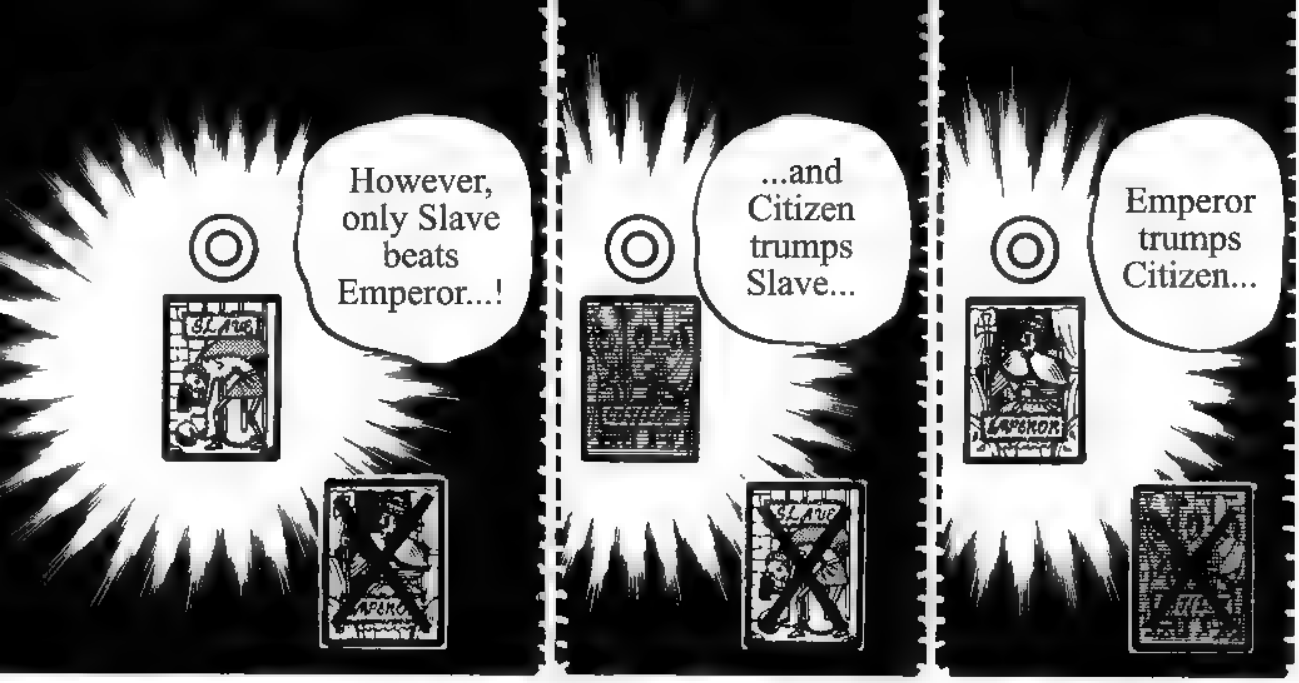
...
driven to despair!
...are not so easily ...

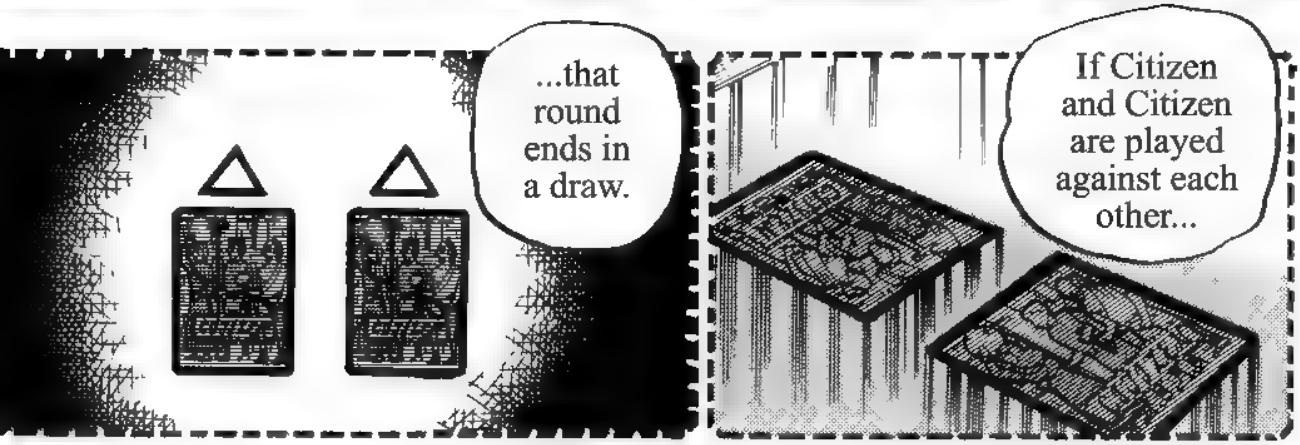
Let me summarize once more...

Hmph ...
.....

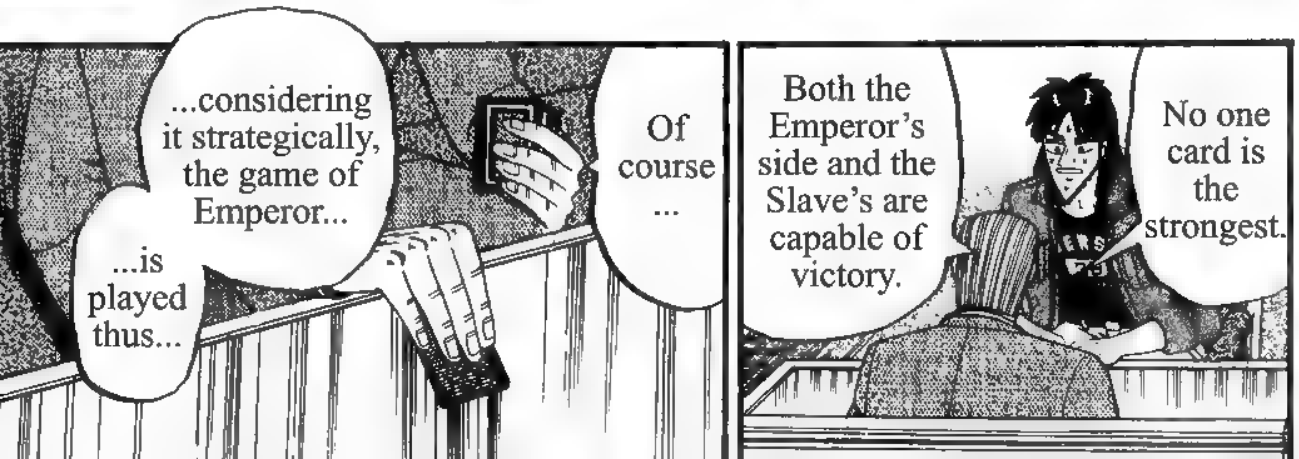
Remember ...


...is determined by the relationship of the cards!
The outcome of Emperor ...


However, only Slave beats Emperor...!
...and Citizen trumps Slave...
Emperor trumps Citizen...


...that round ends in a draw.
If Citizen and Citizen are played against each other...

...and is defeated by another!
Each card defeats one...
The game is a three-way deadlock...

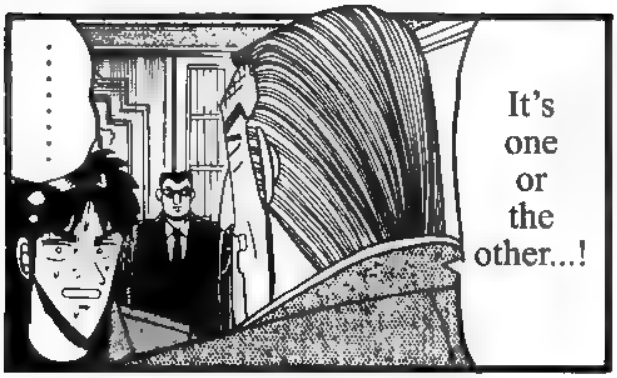

...considering it strategically, the game of Emperor...
...is played thus...
Of course...
Both the Emperor's side and the Slave's are capable of victory.
No one card is the strongest.

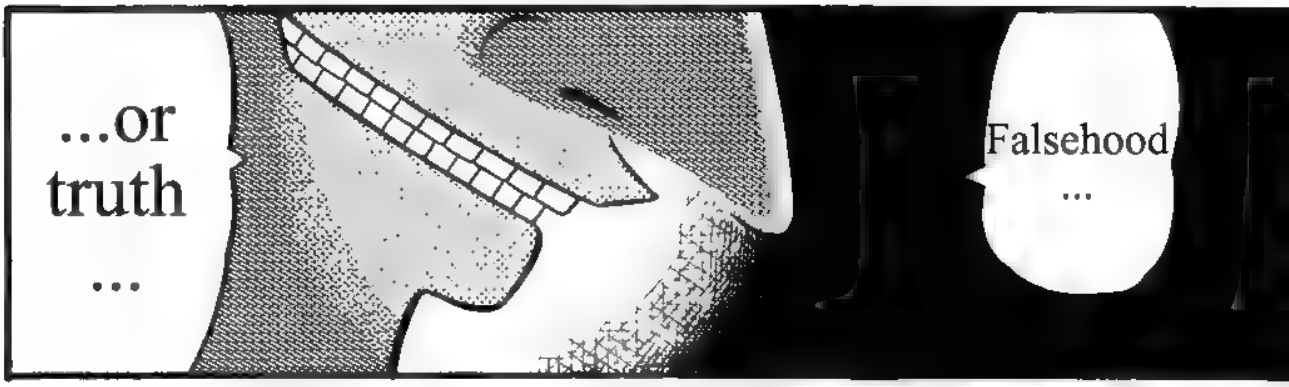
The side holding the Emperor's cards...
.....
... manage to pass off the Emperor ...
Obviously, should the player...
...under guise of the Citizens.
...must attempt to pass off the Emperor card...
...at all costs.
...the player on the Slave's side must attempt to intercept this event ...
In other words ...
Victory will be his.
...he will be left with no other losing cards.
...then that match ...
If he does manage to defeat the Emperor by using the Slave...
...counter with the Slave.
...and when that time comes...
He must attempt to gauge at what point the Emperor is played...

A very simple game of psychological warfare...
It's simple ...
However ...
Hmph ...
.....
...will belong to the Slave's side!
...that ultimately the game is most complex!
...once we get started, you'll see...
...however complicated society may be...
Regardless ...
...but society is simply a much more complex version of this psychological warfare...
I think it goes without saying ...
People always speak in one of two ways...
In other words ...
...it ultimately boils down to one fact.
Pandemonium, so to speak

Bluffing
...
...or being sincere.

...
Truthfully
...
...or falsely.


It's one or the other...!
.....


Falsehood
...
...or truth
...

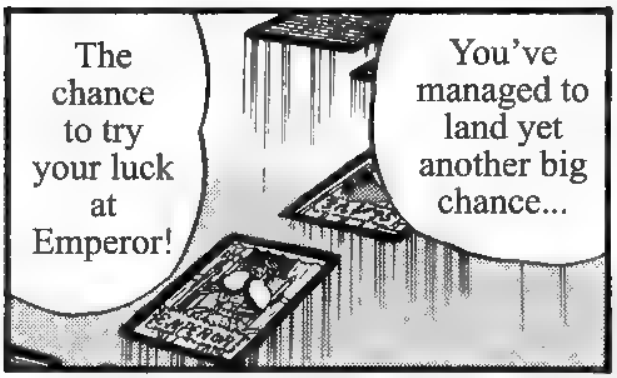
The game of Emperor
...
...is a kind of training ground, to help us see...
...this one integral fact more clearly.

Those are the only two options...!
.....

It is lies which are the main culprit behind most people's ruin...
After all ...
...should be that much easier.
...then navigating the world ...
If you can learn to win at Emperor ...
...you wouldn't be in the situation you are in now.
If you had simply been more perceptive...
Kaiji ...
But lies and deception are things which can be seen ...!
You're too much of an oaf to see through other people's lies. You brought it on yourself...
...is that you are too naive.
.....
The reason you find yourself in such a predicament ...
.....
...and now you are getting your just rewards!
38

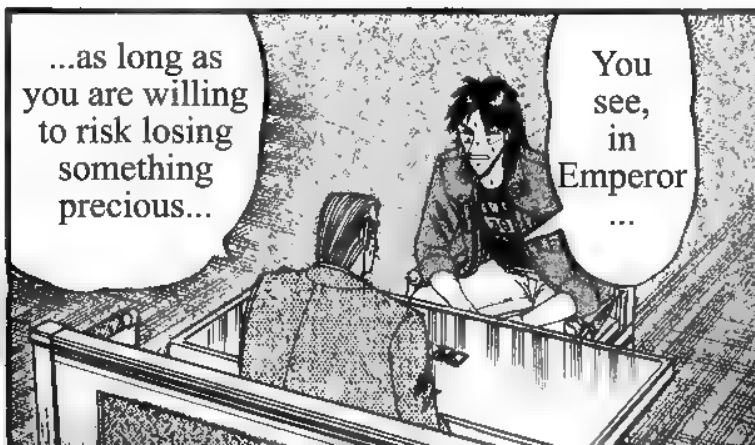
ぎゅ

Hehehe
...
.....

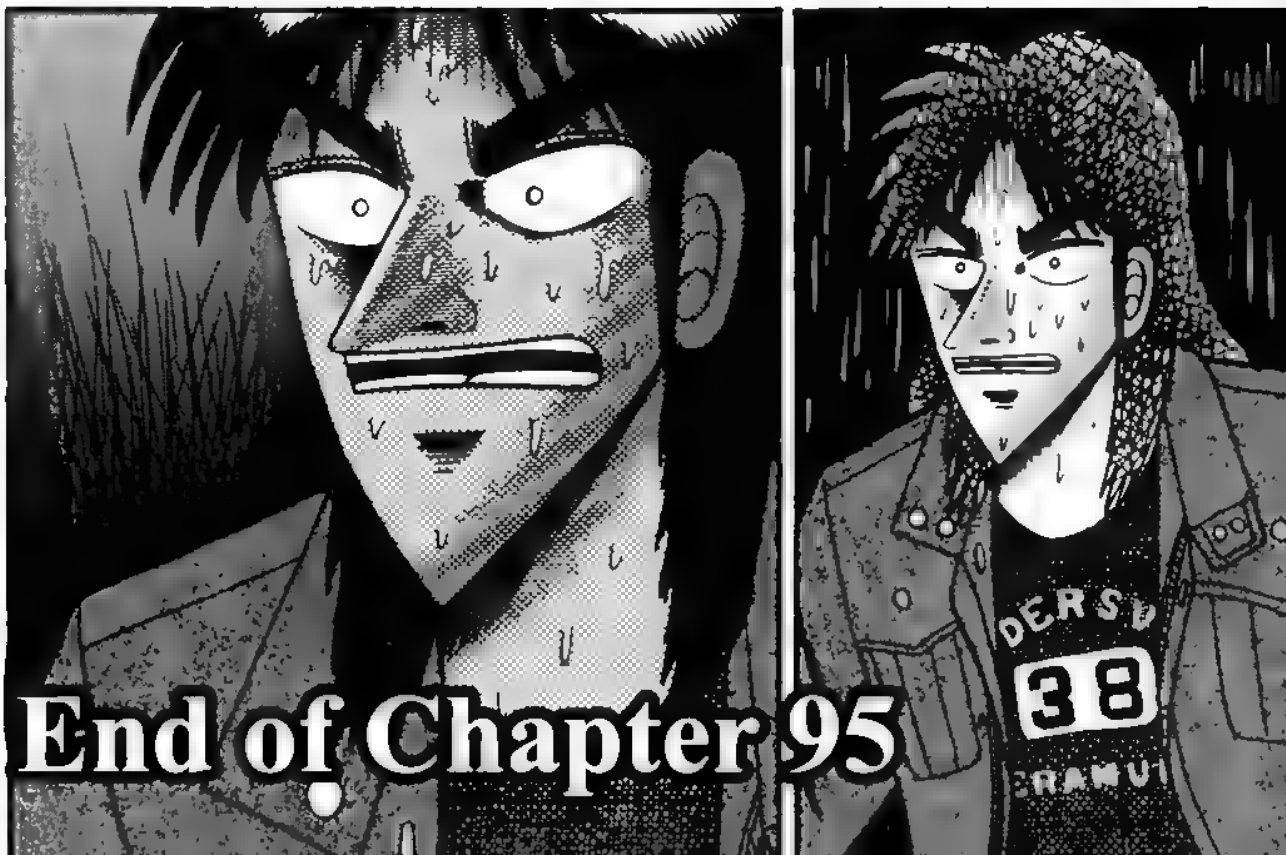

The chance to try your luck at Emperor!
You've managed to land yet another big chance...

...you're also a very lucky man.
However ...

...as 100 million yen.
...you could instead win as much...


...as long as you are willing to risk losing something precious...
You see, in Emperor ...

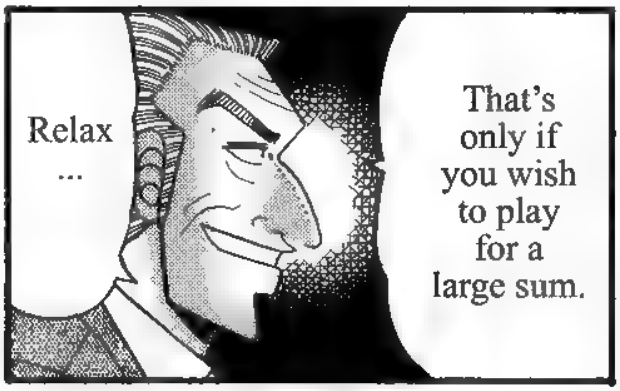
It is an incredible amount of money.
Indeed ...
100 million ...?
.....
Hehehe ...
Of course ...
Right now... you said I had to risk something precious...!
Huh ...?
What's the risk...?
Namely ...
...this next risk insignificant.
Having staked your life on the last game, Kaiji-kun, I think you will find...
It is an organ ...

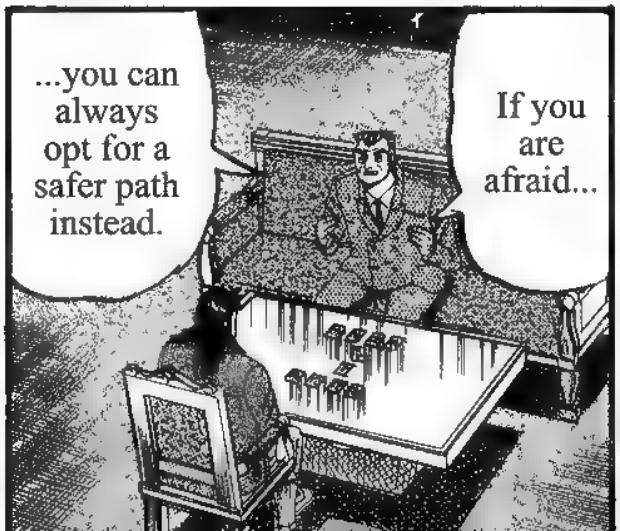


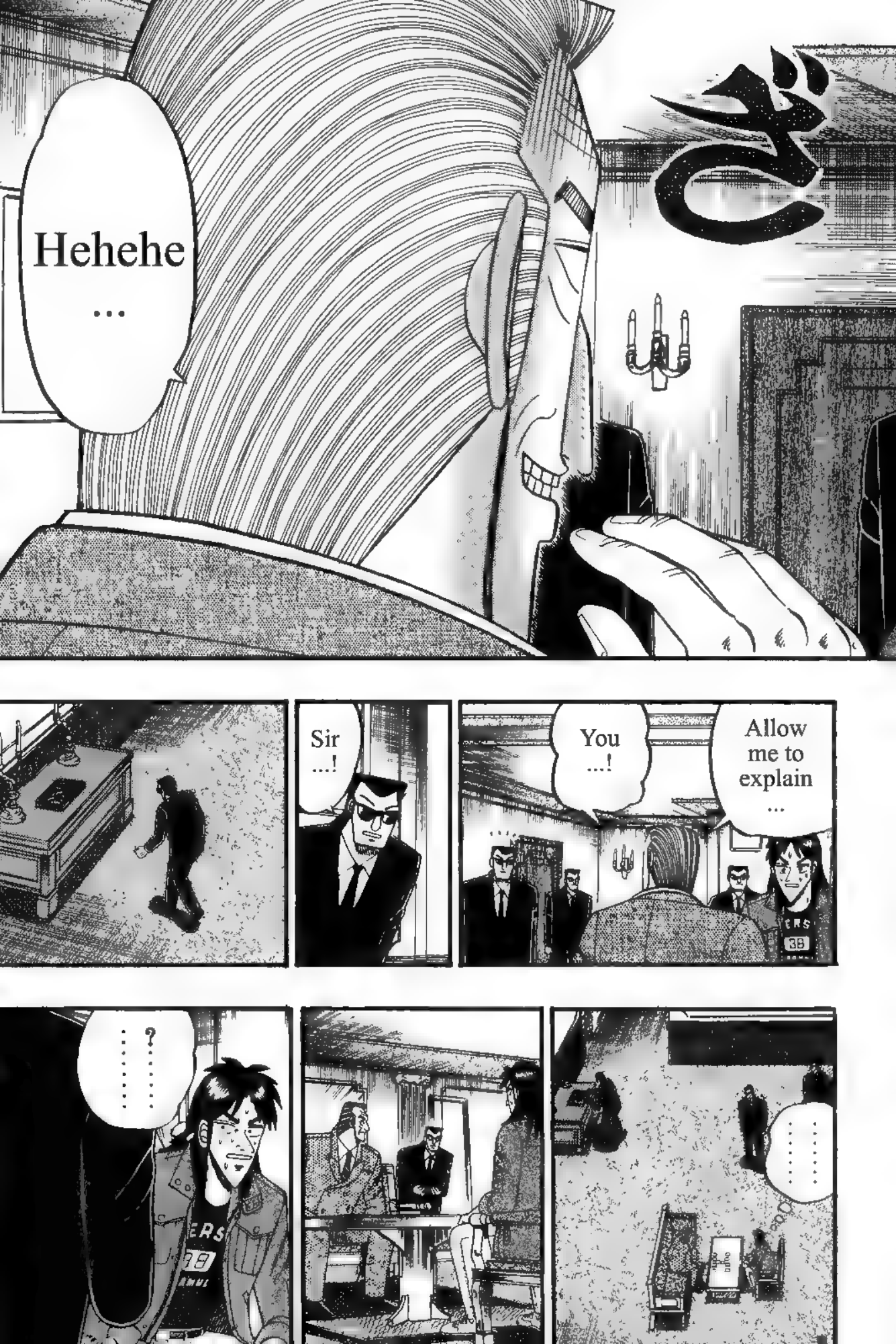
End of Chapter 95

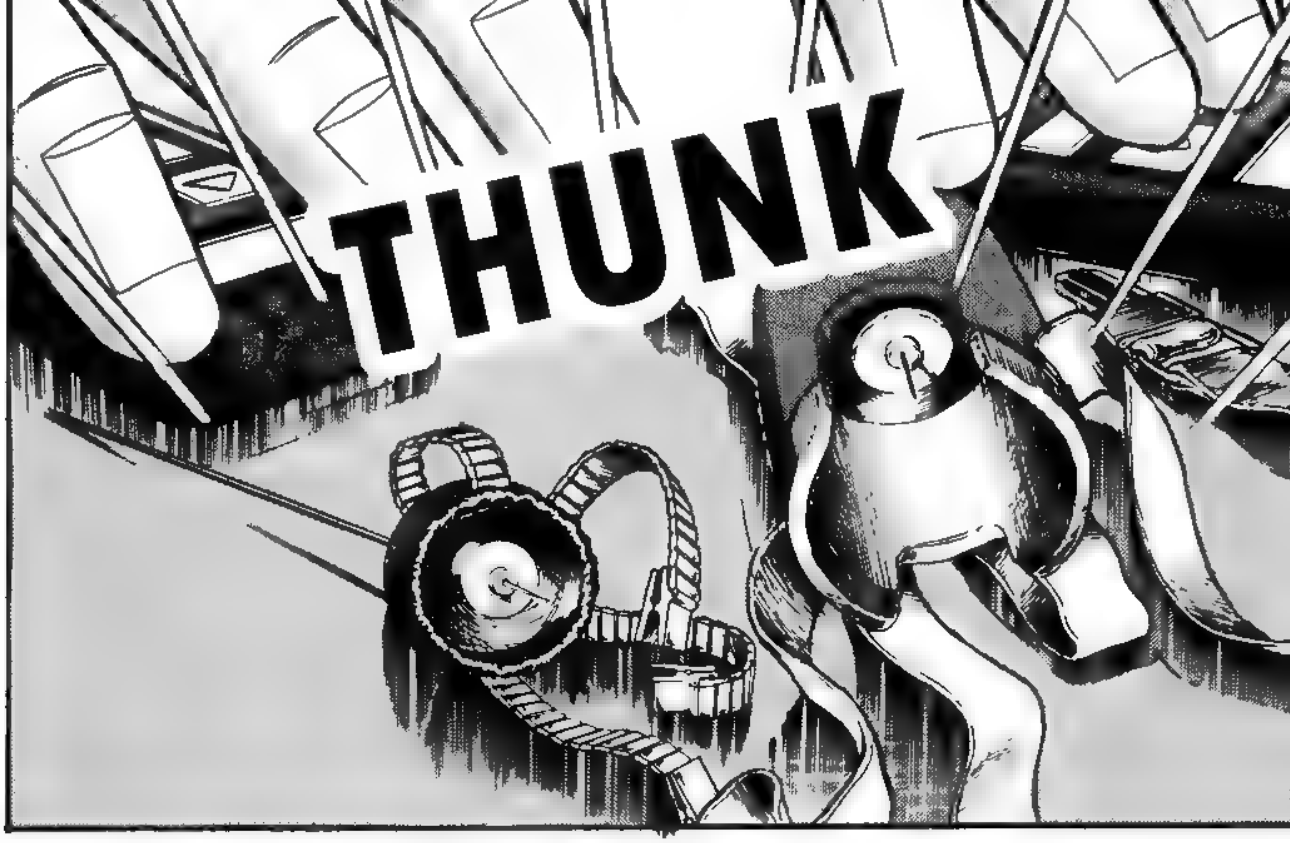
Chapter 96: Apparati

An eye!! or an ear!!!






Hehehe
...
Sir ...!
You ...!
Allow me to explain ...
.....?.....
.....

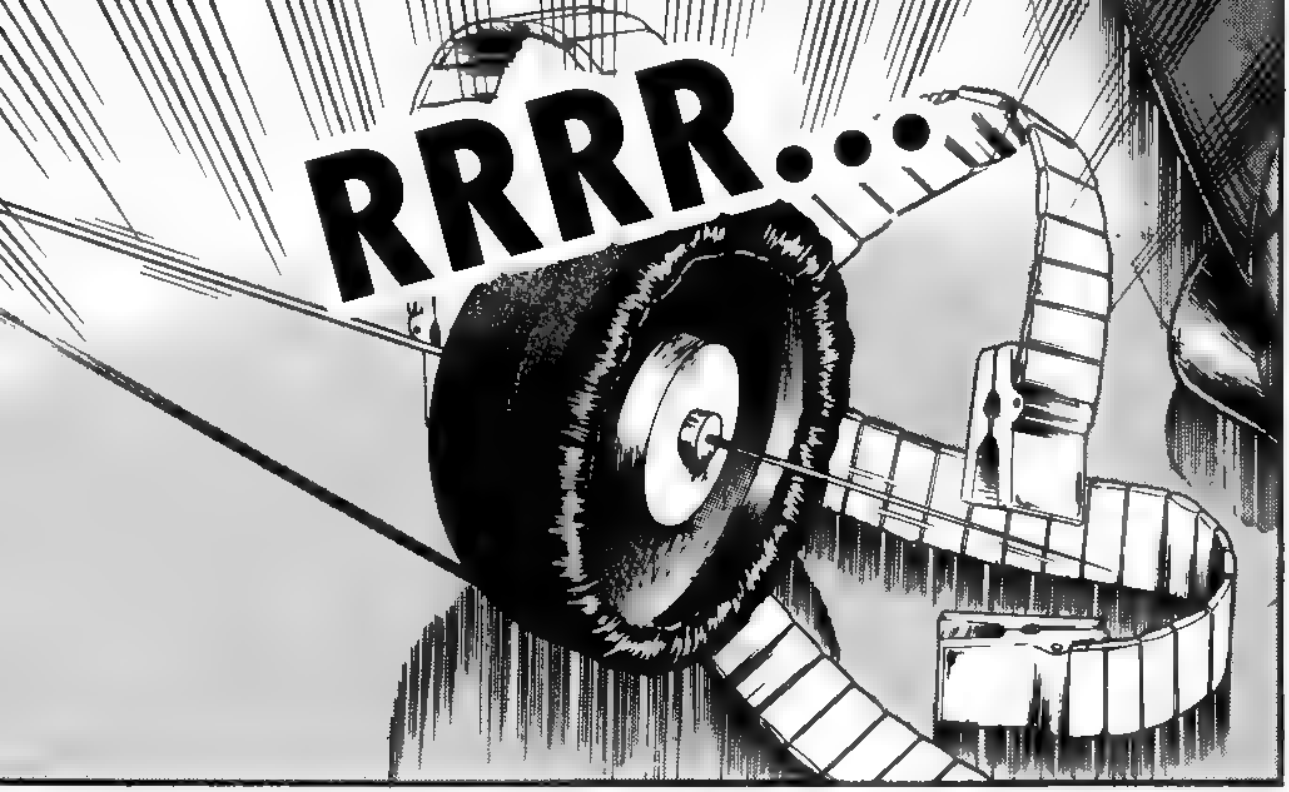

THUNK

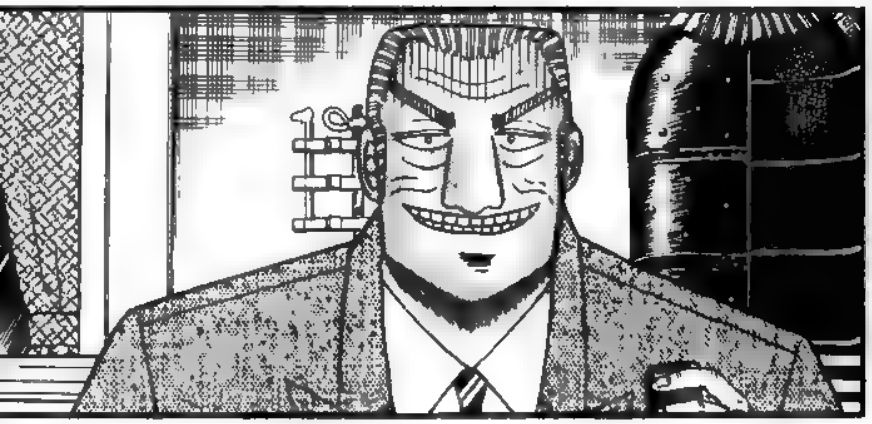
38

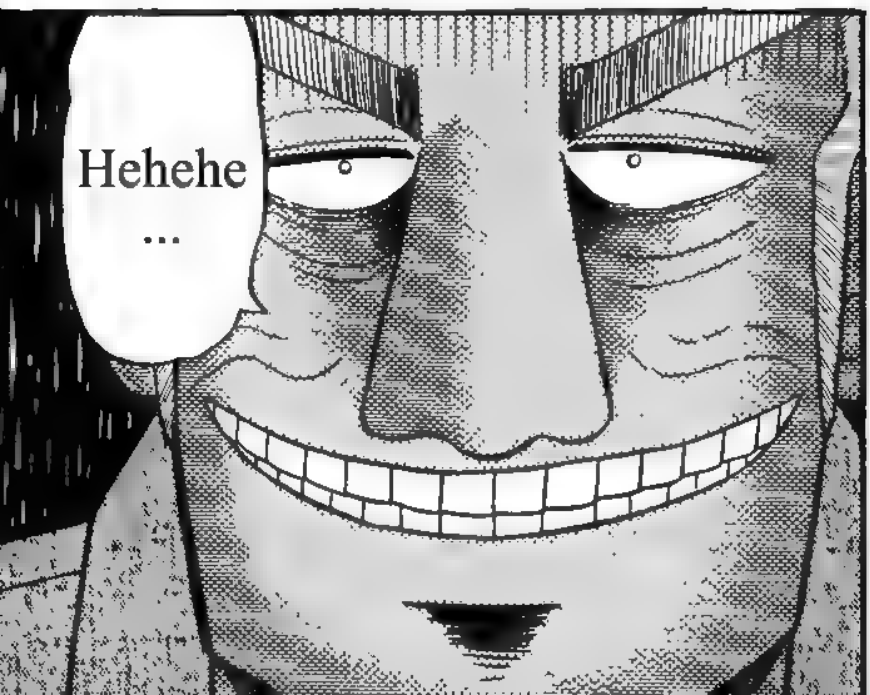
Hmph
...
Eh...?

A large amount ...
An amount so large, that once you had begun to lose...
...your breath would come short, your body tremble, and your blood run like ice.
Usually, when playing Emperor ...
...we would both be required to wager money ...
After all, you're completely broke.
...right now, you are in no position to play such a game, Kaiji-kun.
But...
It is a game which shakes one to their core.
We will progress in stages ...
.....
...if you should lose, we won't suddenly cut off your ear...
...or poke your eye out.
However ...
That's why you will be wagering an eye or an ear instead.

...will be controlled by these devices, as they mete out the time before ruin.
...and that grace ...
You will have a certain measure of grace...
... which will extend ...
Inside each device is a needle...
And one for the eardrum ...
One for the eye...
Each device is controlled by remote ...
Their construction is simple.
RRRR...
WHRRRRR...
...like so!
CLICK

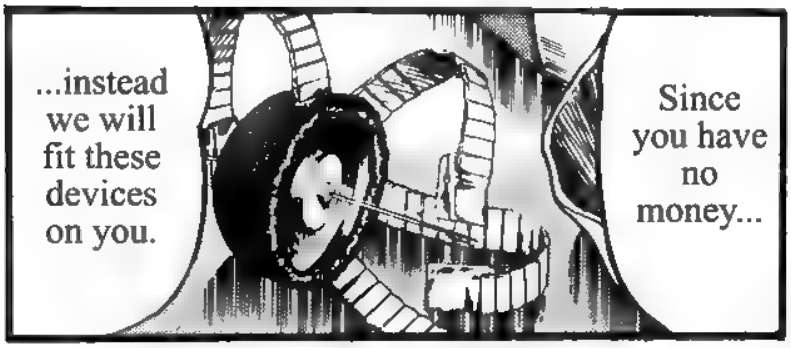

RRRR...




Hehehe
...

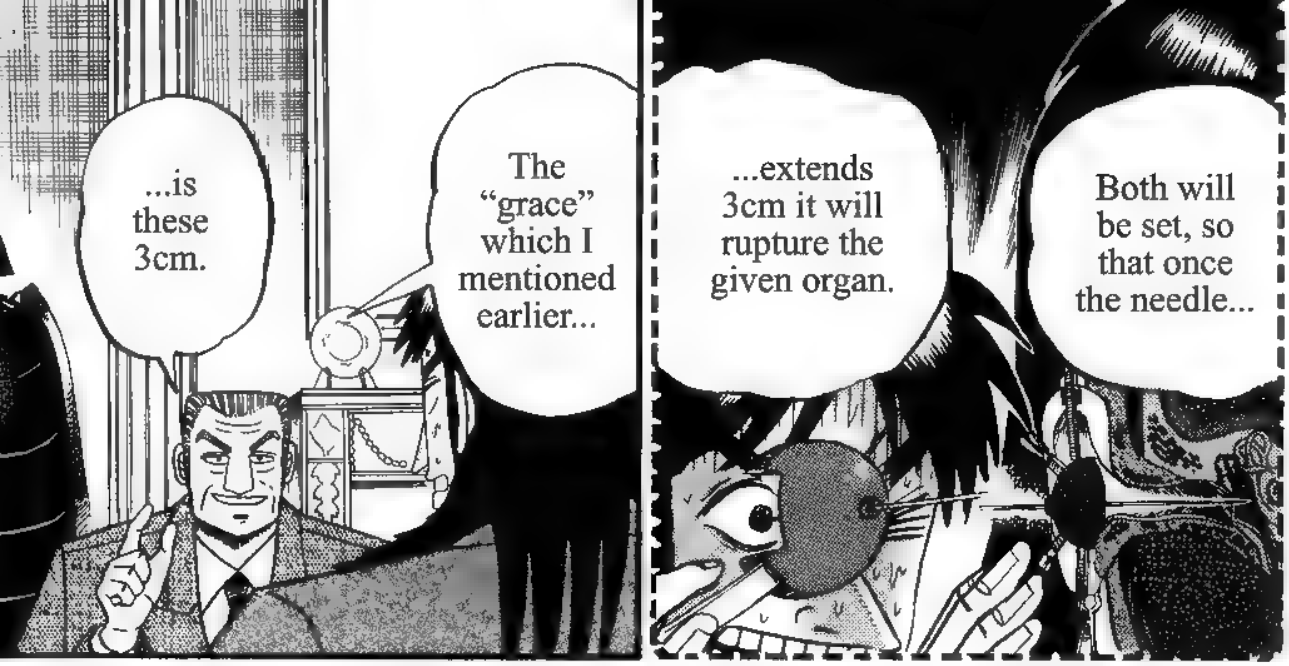
ERS
38
RAM

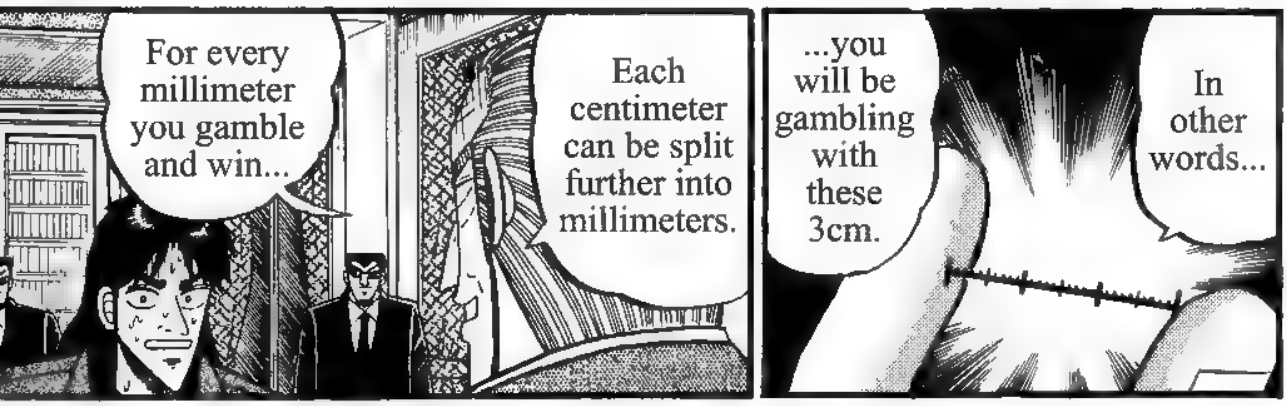
Fascinating ...
... isn't it!?

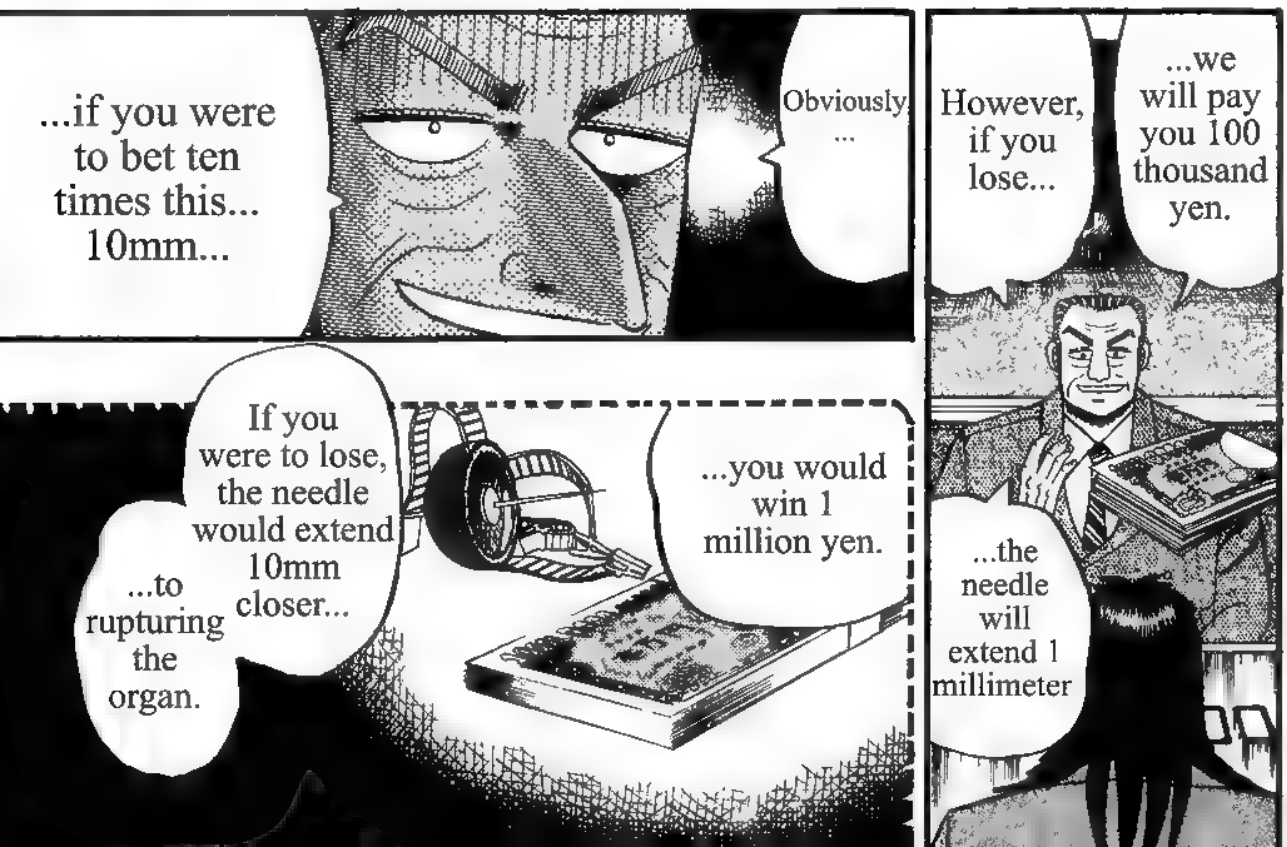

Since you have no money...
...instead we will fit these devices on you.

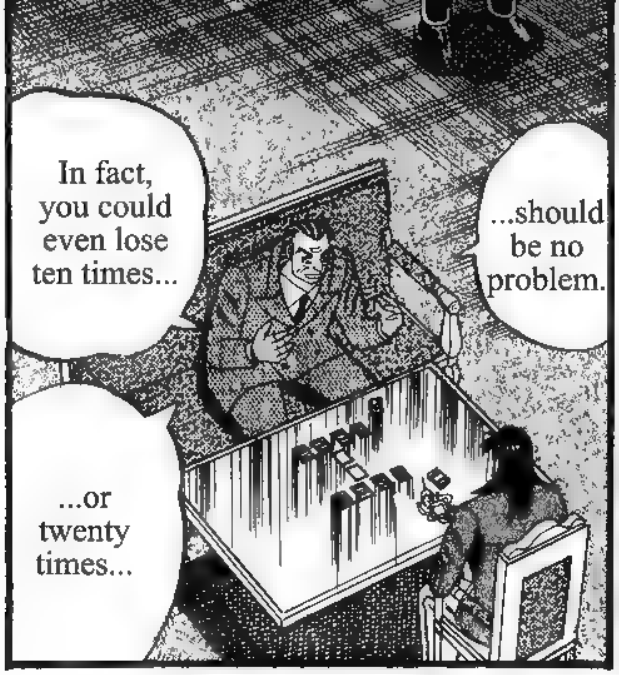
Hmph ...
.....

You can choose which you like... the eye... or the ear...
The conditions for each are the same.

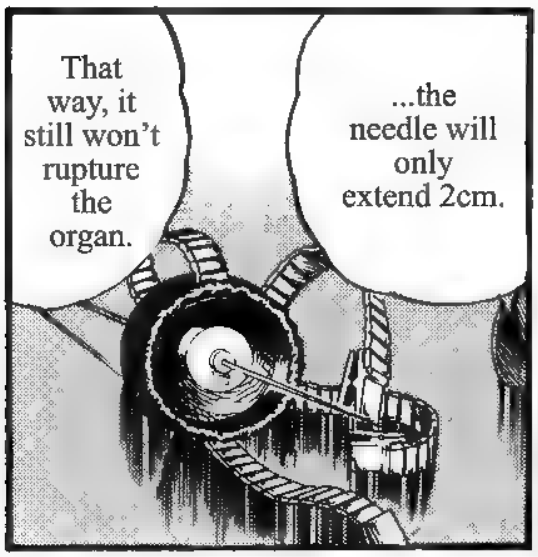

...is these 3cm.
The "grace" which I mentioned earlier...
...extends 3cm it will rupture the given organ.
Both will be set, so that once the needle...


For every millimeter you gamble and win...
Each centimeter can be split further into millimeters.
...you will be gambling with these 3cm.
In other words...


...if you were to bet ten times this... 10mm...
Obviously...
However, if you lose...
...we will pay you 100 thousand yen.
If you were to lose, the needle would extend 10mm closer...
...to rupturing the organ.
...you would win 1 million yen.
...the needle will extend 1 millimeter

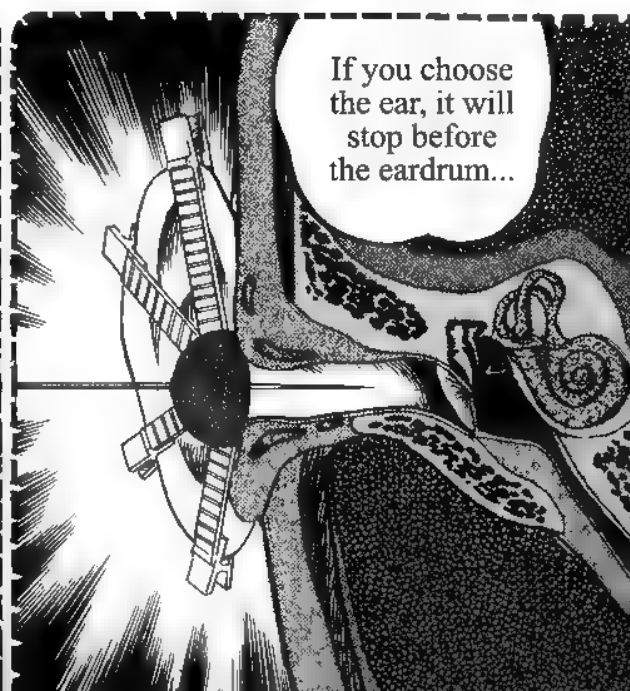

In fact, you could even lose ten times...
...should be no problem.
...or twenty times...

Losing once or twice...
Those will be the stakes in this game.

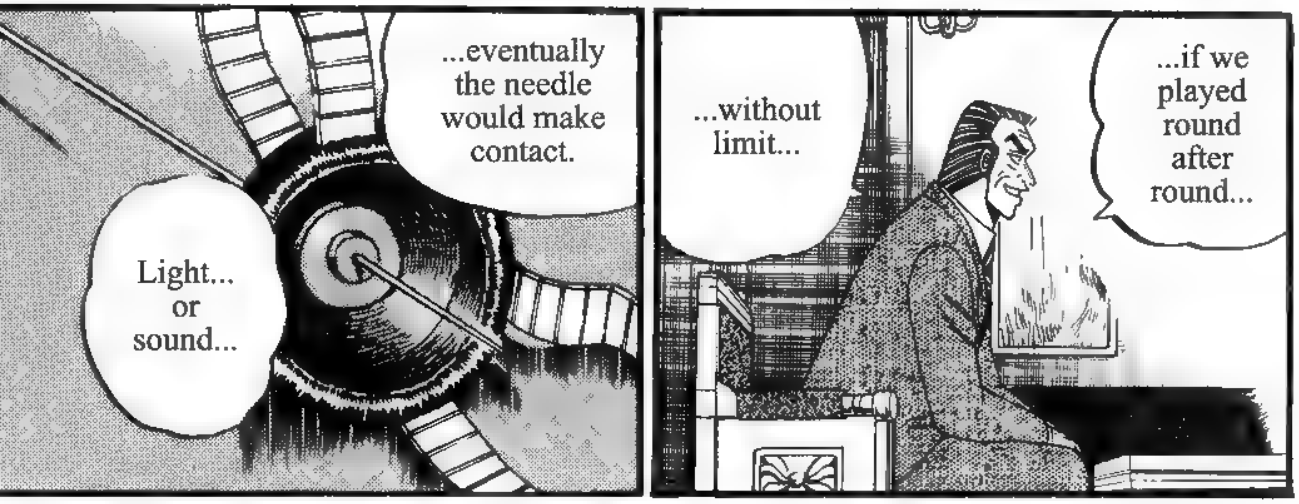

That way, it still won't rupture the organ.
...the needle will only extend 2cm.

If you bet 1mm, then even if you lose twenty times in a row...
The lowest increment you can bet is 1mm.

...before the eyeball.
...and if you choose the eye, the needle will stop...
So relax ...

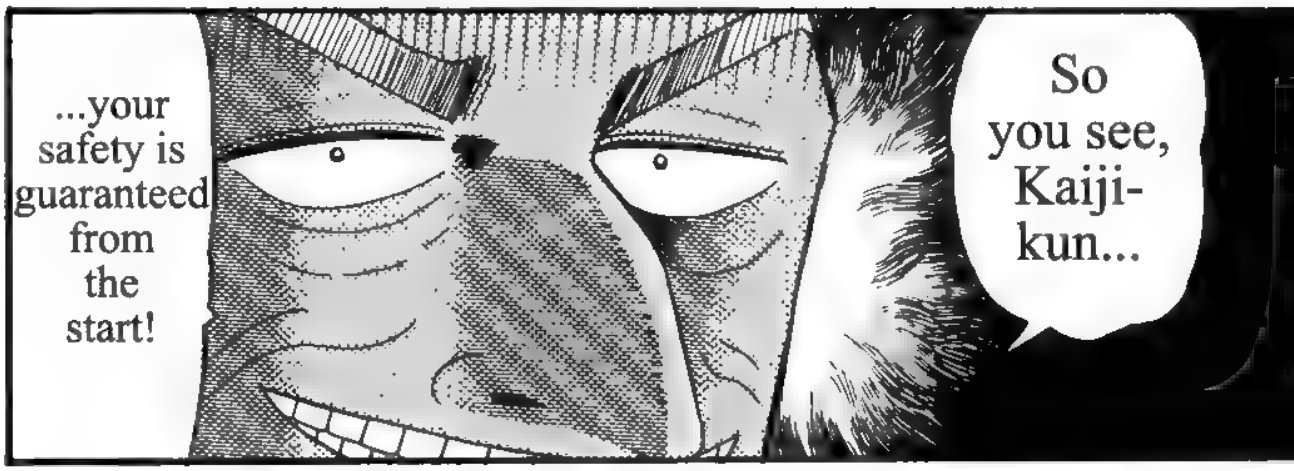

If you choose the ear, it will stop before the eardrum...

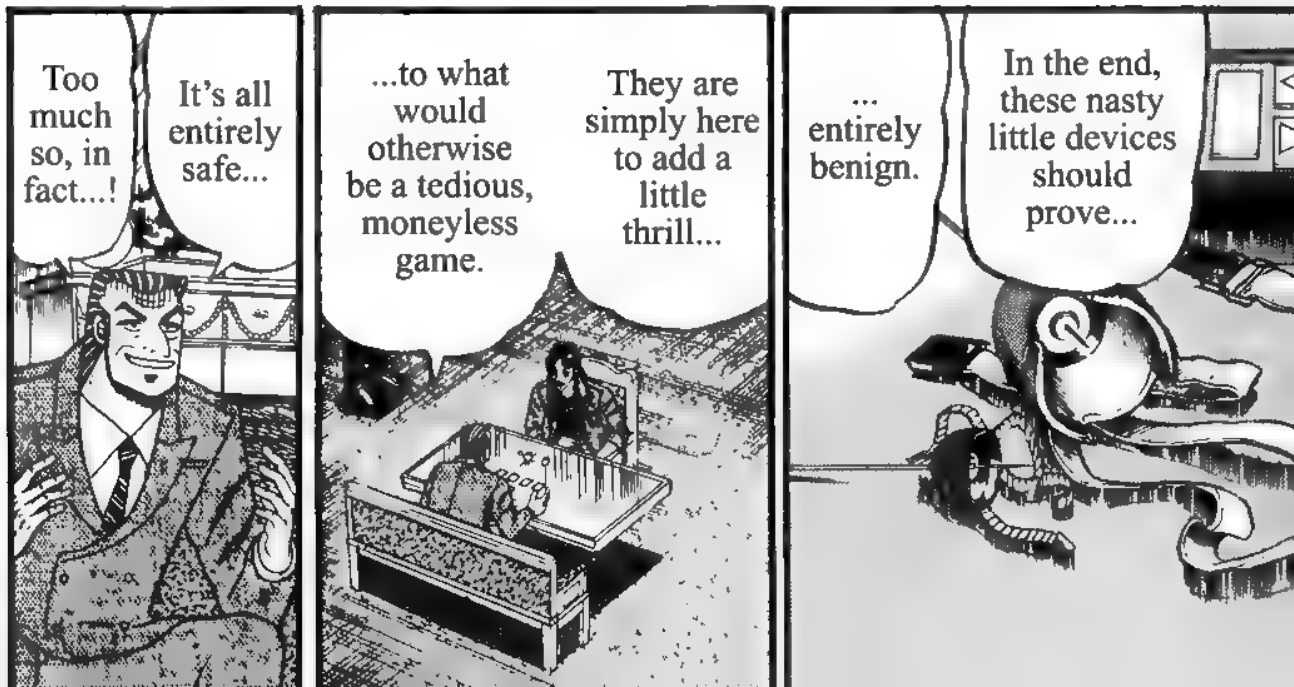
Of course ...
...the game will remain safe!
...and bet 1 or 2cm at a time...
As long as you don't get greedy ...


Light... or sound...
...eventually the needle would make contact.
...without limit...
...if we played round after round...

...we will be limited to only twelve matches!
You see this time ...
The rules have been set up to prevent that...
But this time around that will not be the case...!
You could lose one or the other...

...that would only be 24mm.
If, for instance, you bet 2mm on each match, even if you were to lose every one...
The organ would not be ruptured ...
The game will be capped at twelve matches.
Huh ...?


...your safety is guaranteed from the start!
So you see, Kaiji-kun...


Too much so, in fact...!
It's all entirely safe...
...to what would otherwise be a tedious, moneyless game.
They are simply here to add a little thrill...
... entirely benign.
In the end, these nasty little devices should prove...

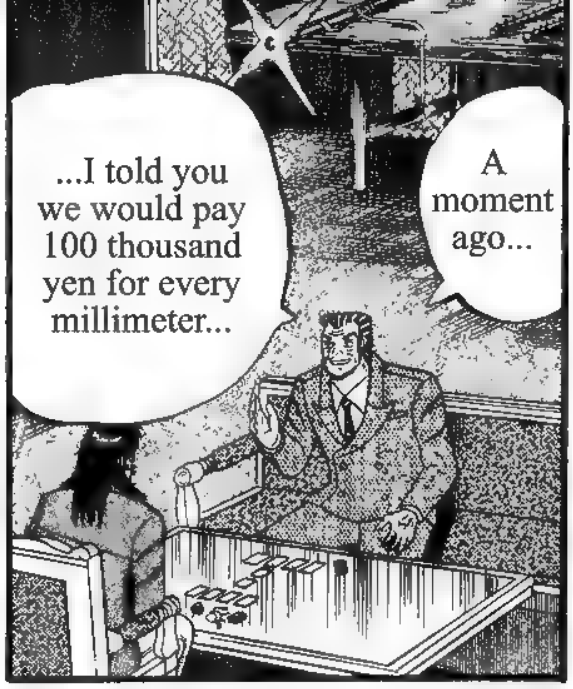
The rest all depends upon you...! On how you choose to manage...
Everything I've said so far is true.

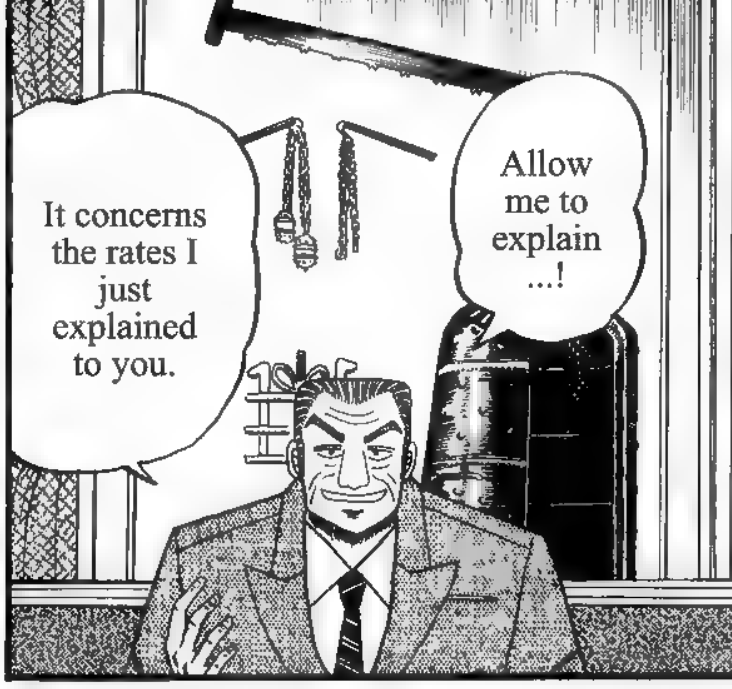
Don't look so skeptical, Kaiji-kun.
Hehehe...

There is one more important point...
Now then ...
News to your ears, so to speak...

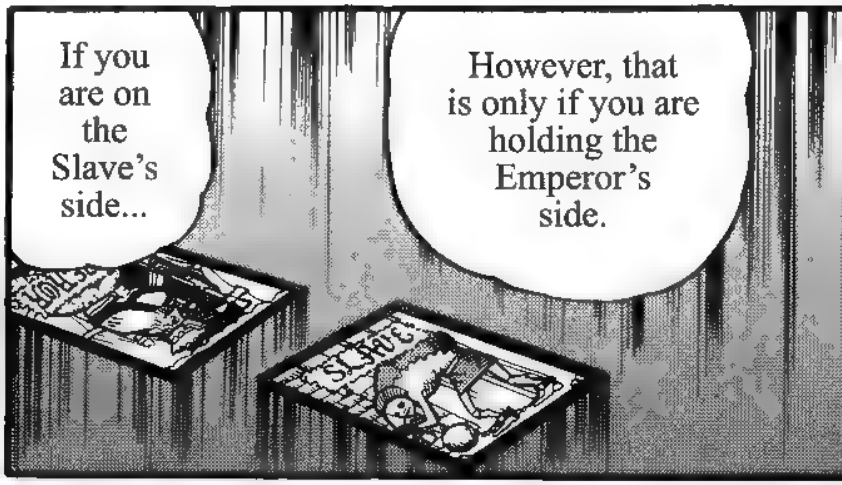
Hmph ...
.....

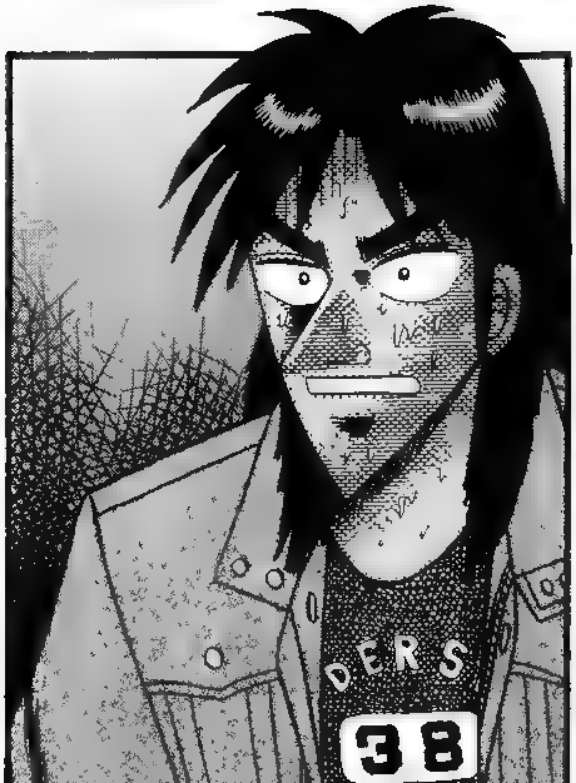
...your own wants, your own head!


...I told you we would pay 100 thousand yen for every millimeter...
A moment ago...


It concerns the rates I just explained to you.
Allow me to explain ...!

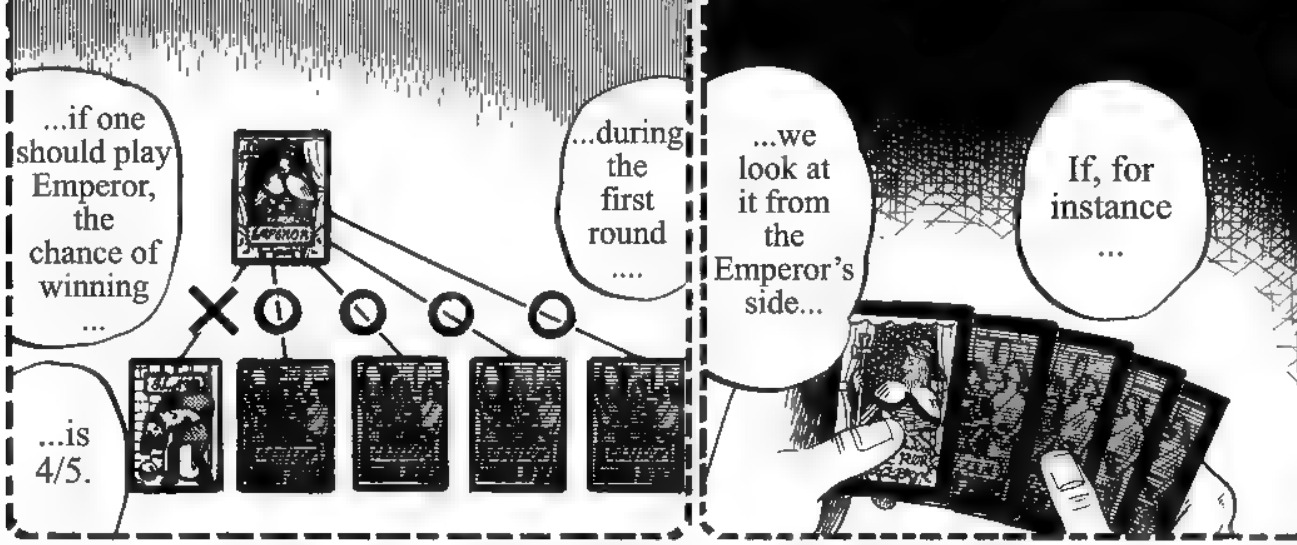
The money increases fivefold ...
...the case is different.


If you are on the Slave's side...
However, that is only if you are holding the Emperor's side.


38

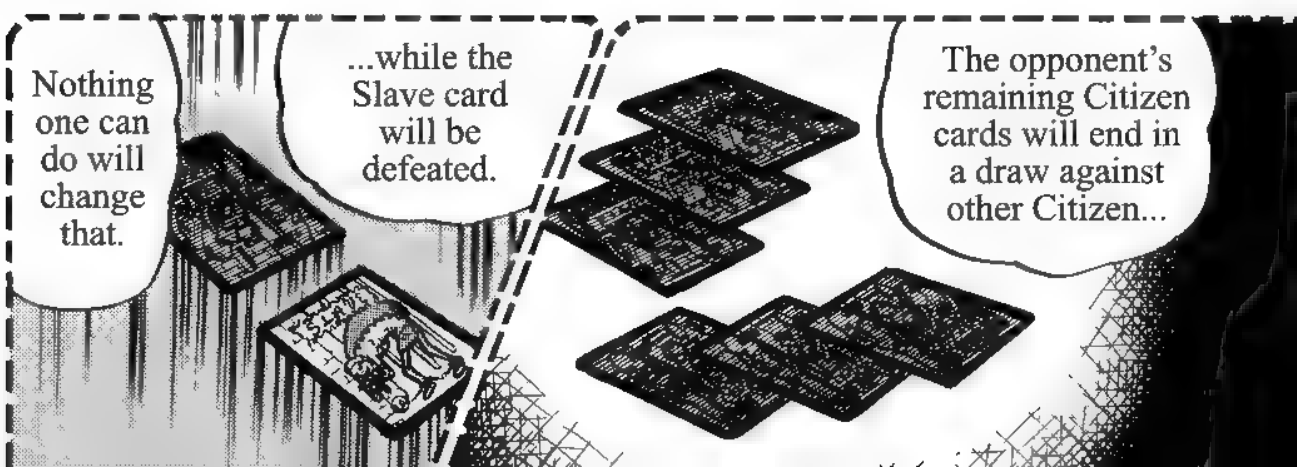
...we pay 500 thousand yen!
For every millimeter ...

The odds will be that much steeper ...!
The reasoning is simple ...
Hmph ...
Huh ...?
Compared to the Emperor's side...
In the game of Emperor ...
.....
...is much much more difficult!
...winning on the Slave's side...
...that the moment when either the Emperor or the Slave is played...
That means ...
...is the most vital in the game, the key to success or failure!
...the Emperor and the Slave...
In other words ...
... determines the strength of the entire hand.
The strength of the two remaining cards...
...two Citizen cards result in a draw.


...if one should play Emperor, the chance of winning ...
...is 4/5.
...during the first round ....
...we look at it from the Emperor's side...
If, for instance ...

...but as long as one is able to pass off the Emperor...
I mentioned this before...
Those odds are extremely high.
That's 80%.

His opponent will no longer have any cards in his hand which can defeat him.
It's obvious.
...that match is already won.
...that he play Emperor against Citizen...
... meaning ...


Nothing one can do will change that.
...while the Slave card will be defeated.
The opponent's remaining Citizen cards will end in a draw against other Citizen...

The first win decides the entire match ...!

It's the first win...!

You see ...

...or 66%...

In the third, 2/3...

In the second, 3/4, or 75%...

...has an 80% chance of winning.

In the first round, the Emperor's side...

Five times the amount ...!

...since it is more difficult to win on the Slave's side...

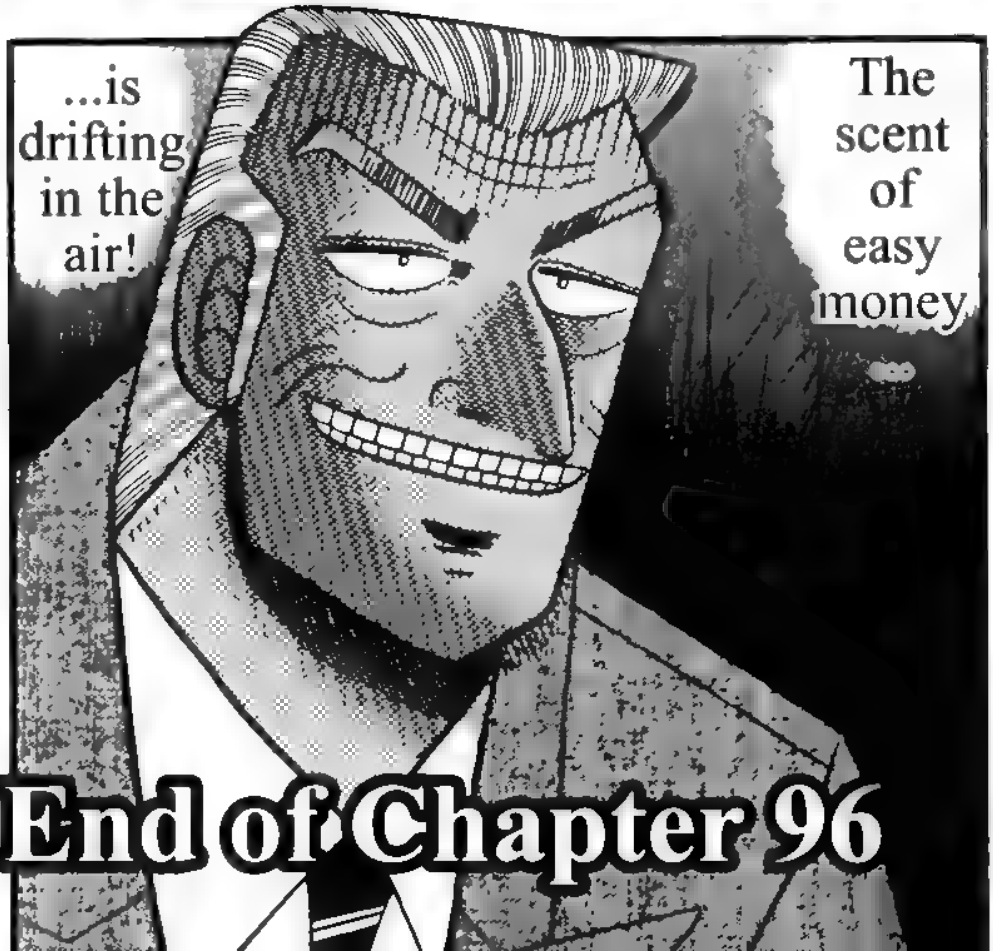
You see...

...the payoff is that much greater.

Up until the fourth round the odds stay in your favor...

Even the fourth round is 1/2, or 50%...

...at 50% or more!

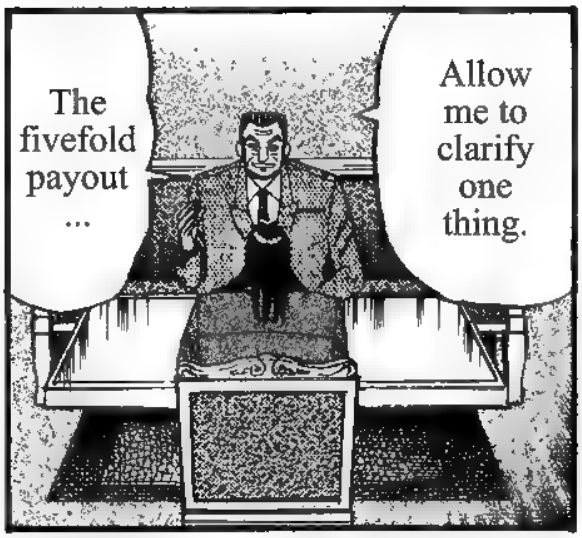


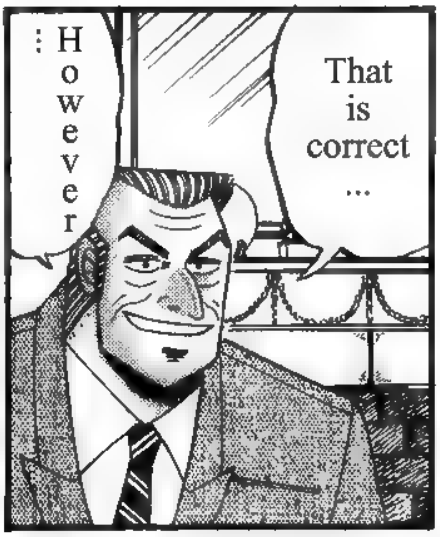
Have you caught it yet ...?

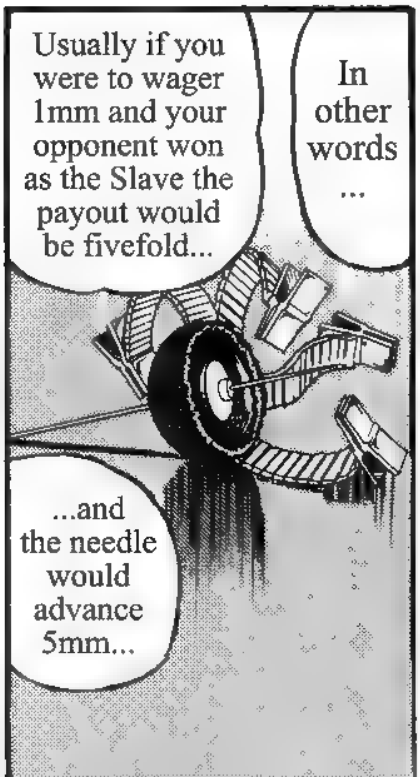
End of Chapter 96

Chapter 97: Furious

Win on the Slave's side, and the payout!!







But in our game, that will not be the case...!

.....

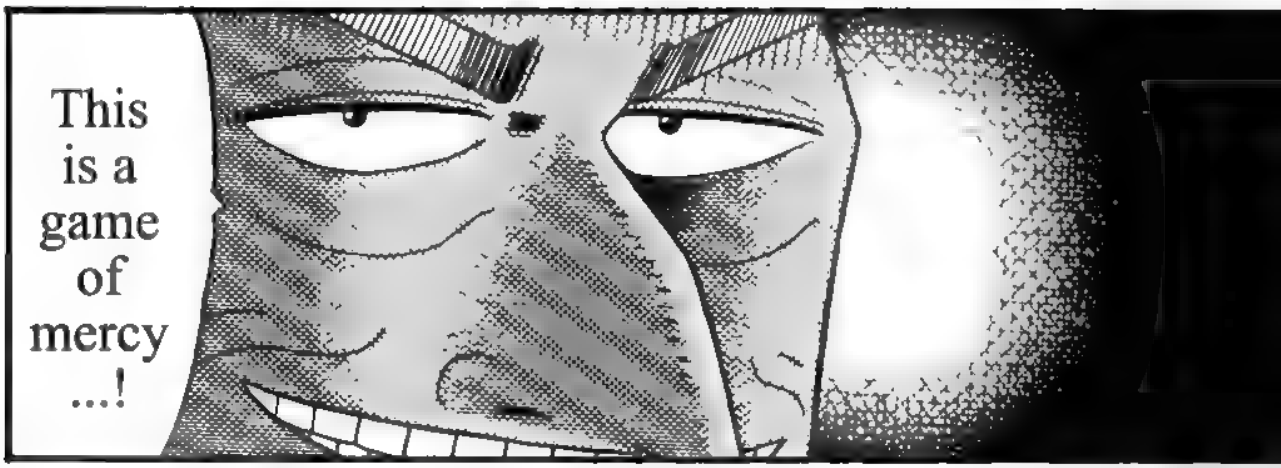
...in exchange for crossing the bridge.
An act of benevolence on our part, since you earned no money...

...we are applying a handicap.
In short...

Hehehe ...

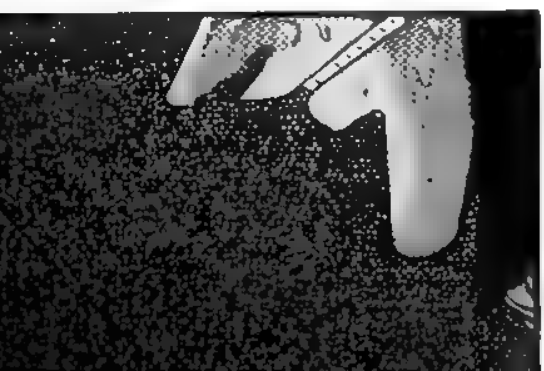
...you could still earn around 1 million yen...
...at absolutely no risk...
...all thanks to the compassion of the director.

As you see ...
A consolation game...a kind of reward...


This is a game of mercy ...!

.....
Hehehe ...

ERS

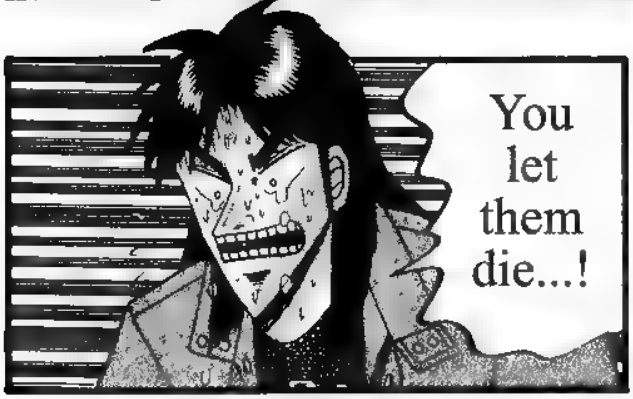


Burn
...!
Burn
in
hell
...!

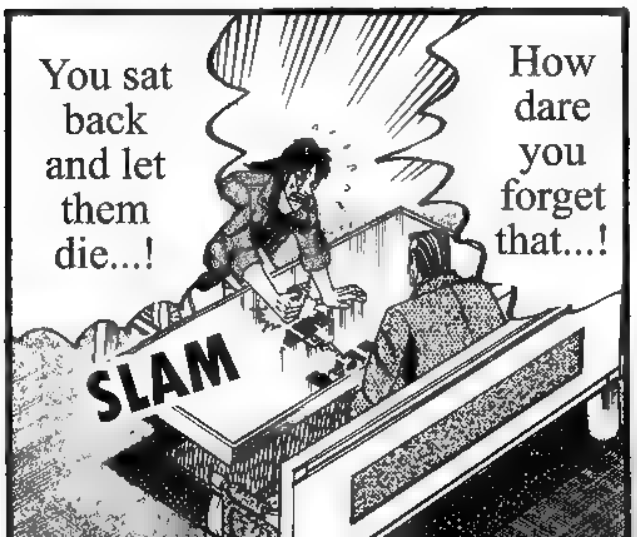
...about mercy!?
What would you snakes know...
You gotta be kidding me ...!
Hehehe ...
...when I asked you to!
You would have cut off the power...
...you would have cut the power!
If you had even a shred of compassion ...
Ishida-san ...!
A lot of them ...!
...they would have been saved!
If you had just cut the power then...

Sahara
...
SOB
SOB
SOB
Maybe
even
Sahara
...

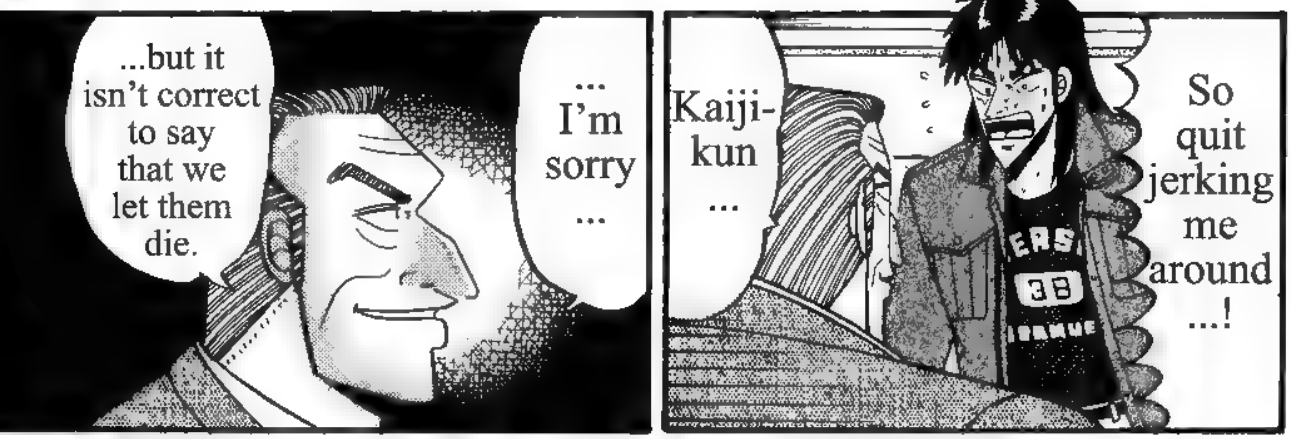
Nakayama
...!
SOB


You
let
them
die...!

Tonegawa
...!
They'd
still be
alive
...!


You sat
back
and let
them
die...!
How
dare
you
forget
that...!
SLAM

Hehehe ...
You snakes don't know anything about mercy...
You let them die, too...!
And you, the geezer in the back...!


...but it isn't correct to say that we let them die.
... I'm sorry ...
Kaiji-kun ...
So quit jerking me around ...!

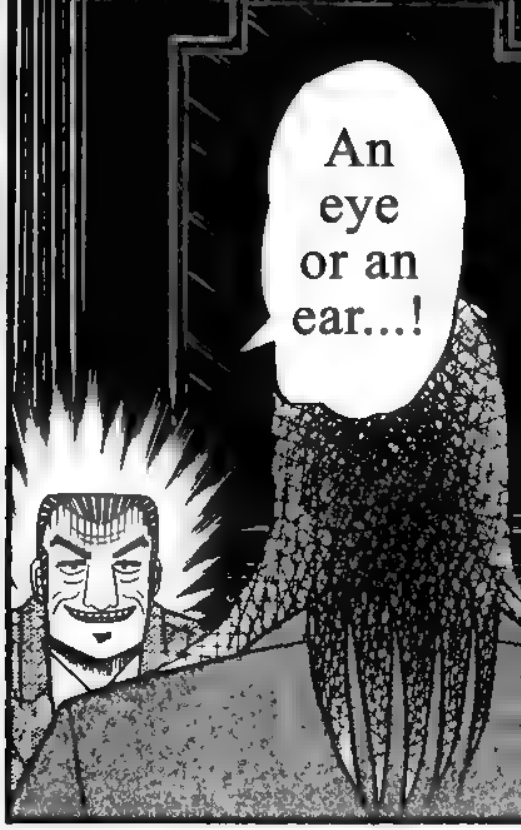
...knowing that they wouldn't be able to touch the bridge with their hands.
They each made the decision to play ...
Consider for yourself ...
They knew that, yet chose to participate anyways.

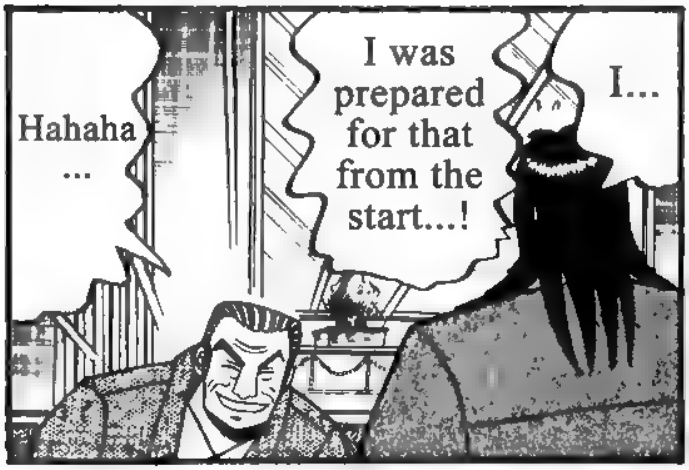
It is wrong of you to blame somebody else...
We were simply ...
...they were all responsible for their own decision.
...even if that was the cause of their death...
So you see ...
Hmph ...
Ngh ...!
.....
...adhering to our contract.
.....
Kaiji-kun...
You don't need to accuse us...
...
unfortunately, we too were bound by that contract...
You see...
...that we did not act more appropriately ...
You have no idea how much it pains us...
...which is why we were unable to respond more quickly when you asked to give up.

...we would like to reward you for all of your troubles.
...as the last surviving member ...
...that at the very least...
It is precisely because we feel such regret...
...at absolutely no risk?
...the chance to gain 1 or 2 million yen...
...then why would we offer you...
If that were not the case...
...then just what exactly is it!?
If that isn't mercy ...
Hehehe ...

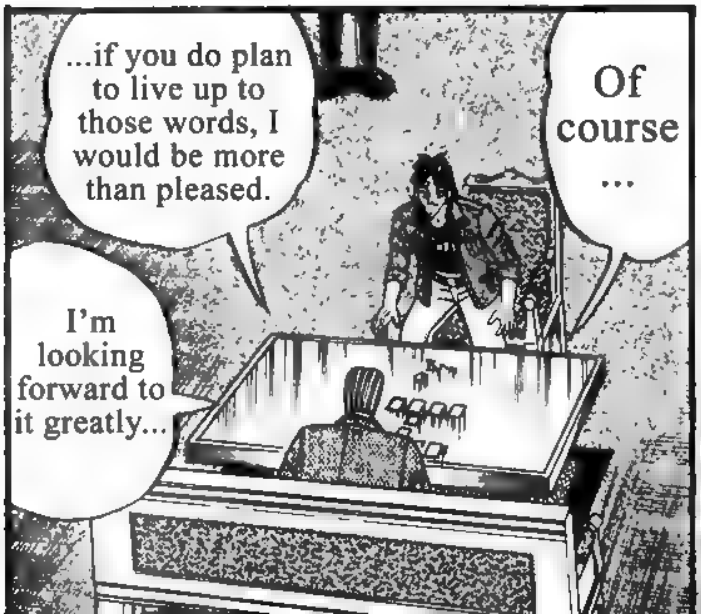
Huh ...?
I'm not here for some chump change...
I don't need your pity...!
This is a match ...!
.....
...for some measly 1 or 2 million!
I didn't stick around...
20 million ...!
...and to wipe out my debt.
...enough for the ticket I was given from Ishida-san...
At the least it should be 20 million ...
ERS
38

Hehehe ...
If I don't win at least 20 million yen...
...staying will have been meaningless!
Huh ...?
I said it before...
What are you laughing at...!?
You're too presumptuous ...
...but if you want 20 million...
...instead of 1 or 2...
...you're going to have to shoulder a suitable risk.
In other words ...
...you might have to lose something in exchange!


An eye or an ear...!

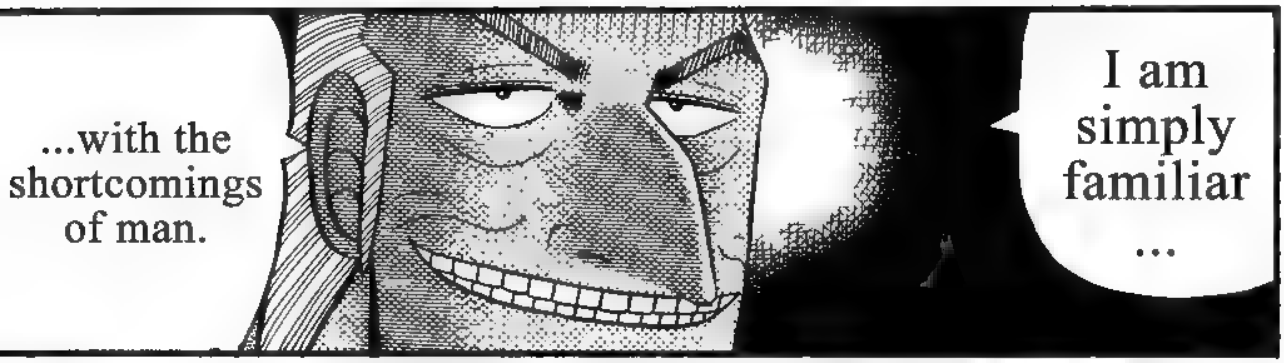

Hahaha ...
I was prepared for that from the start...!
I...

Hehehe ...
.....

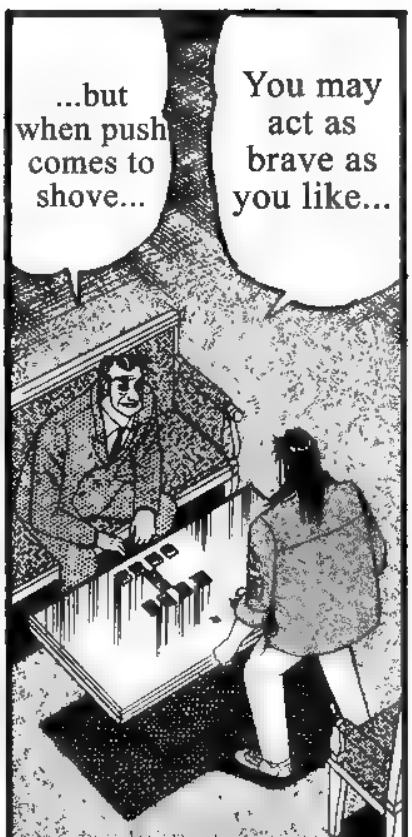

...if you do plan to live up to those words, I would be more than pleased.
Of course ...
I'm looking forward to it greatly...

I don't need to hear any more half-baked bravado ...!
Enough already ....

I assure you, I am not...
Don't underestimate me...!
.....
...but I suspect you'll cave!
Heheheh...


...with the shortcomings of man.
I am simply familiar ...

Make no doubts about it.
...your bravery will fail you.

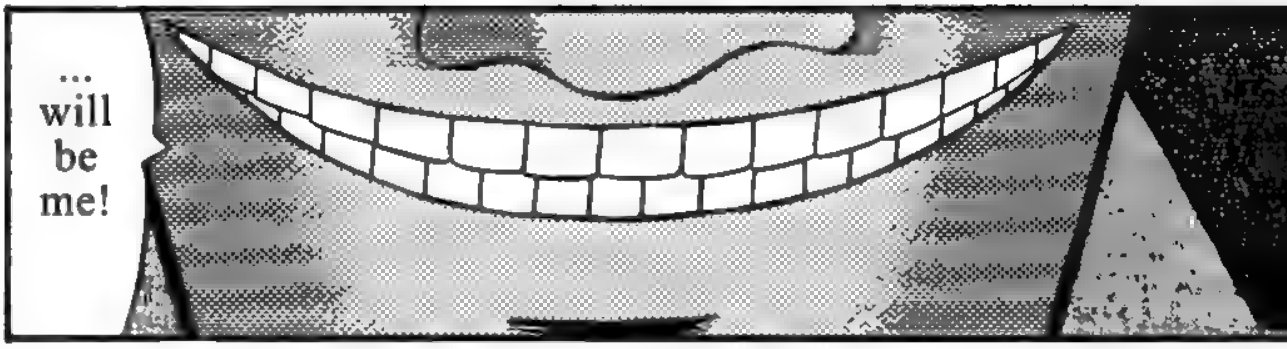

...but when push comes to shove...
You may act as brave as you like...

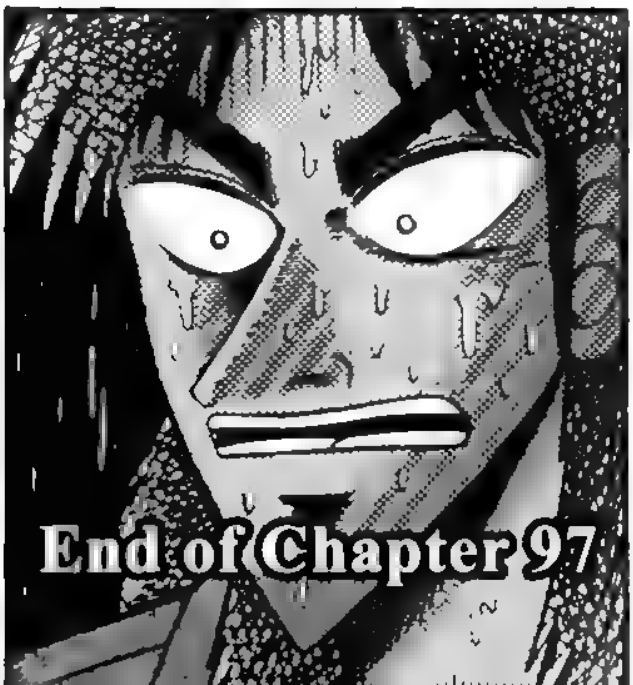
.....
First of all ...
It is impossible that you reach 20 million yen.

In order to win 20 million ...
...that is no guarantee that you'll win.
...you screwed your courage up ...
Even if...
...have a big winning streak.
...you would have to...
.....
It's not the piddling kind of game a brat like you is used to...!
Emperor is a game of psychological warfare...
That just isn't gonna happen...

Then that's my chance ...!
.....
...but I survived ...
...of psychological warfare ...
Limited Janken was also a kind ...
Forget about the bridge ...
You still can't win...!
Listen to what I'm saying...
Hehehe ...
...by outwitting the competition!
...while we were still in the hallway.
The truth is, the director gave me his orders...
You see ...
Hehehe ...
That little show was no more than child's play...
?.....

...in tonight's game...
Your opponent ...

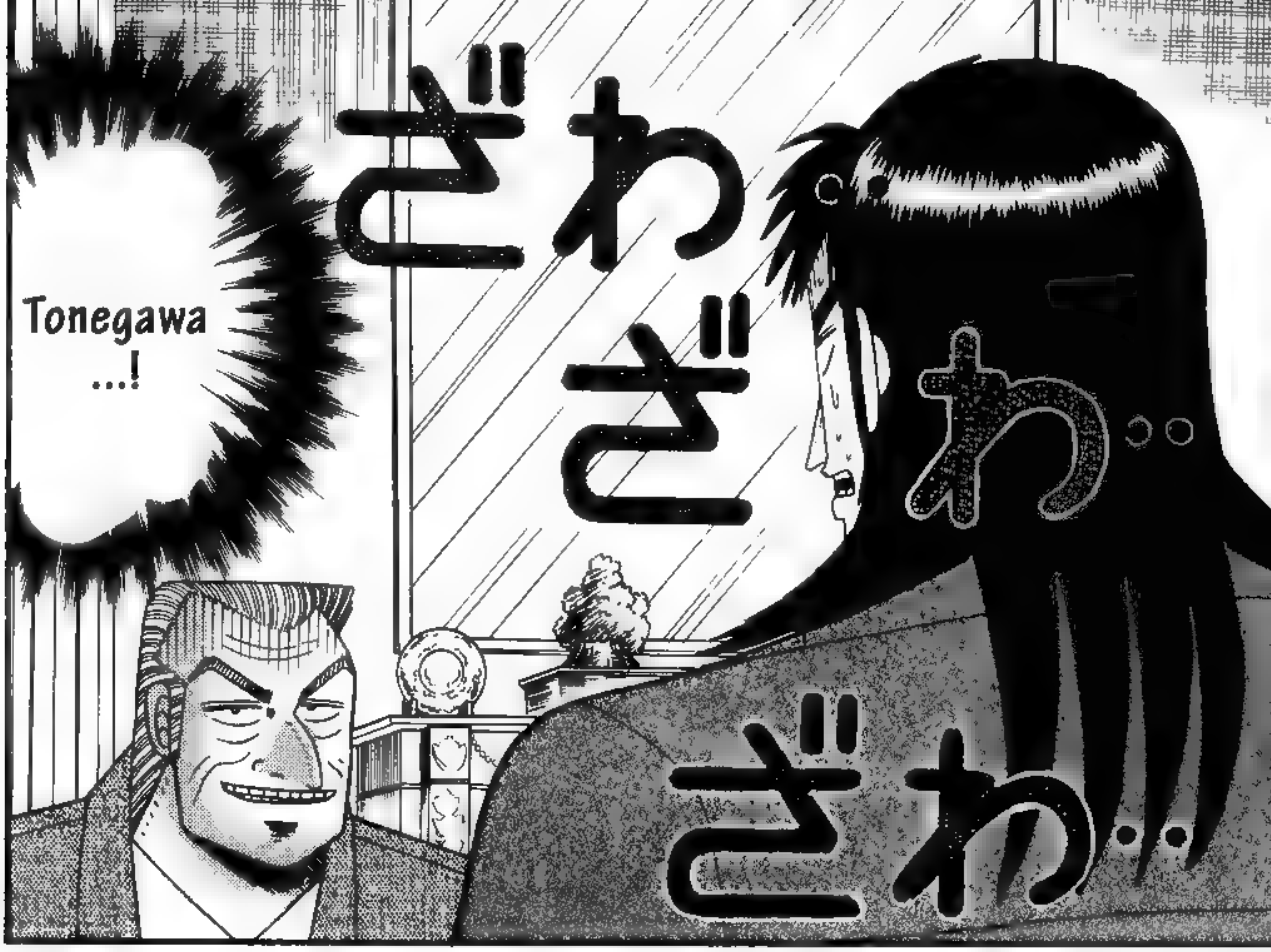

... will be me!


End of Chapter 97

Huh ...!?

38

Chapter 98: Karma

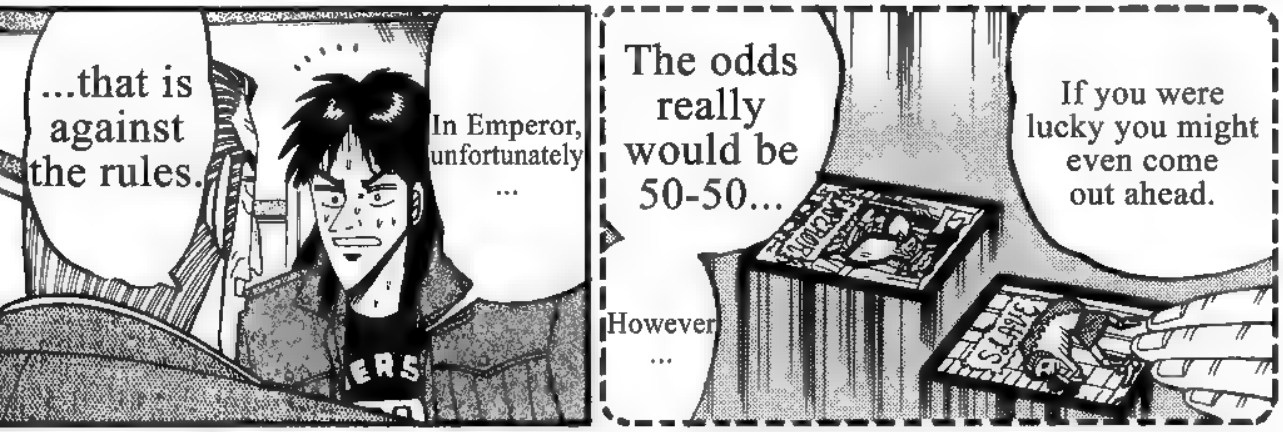

Tonegawa ...!
ざわ…
ざわ…!

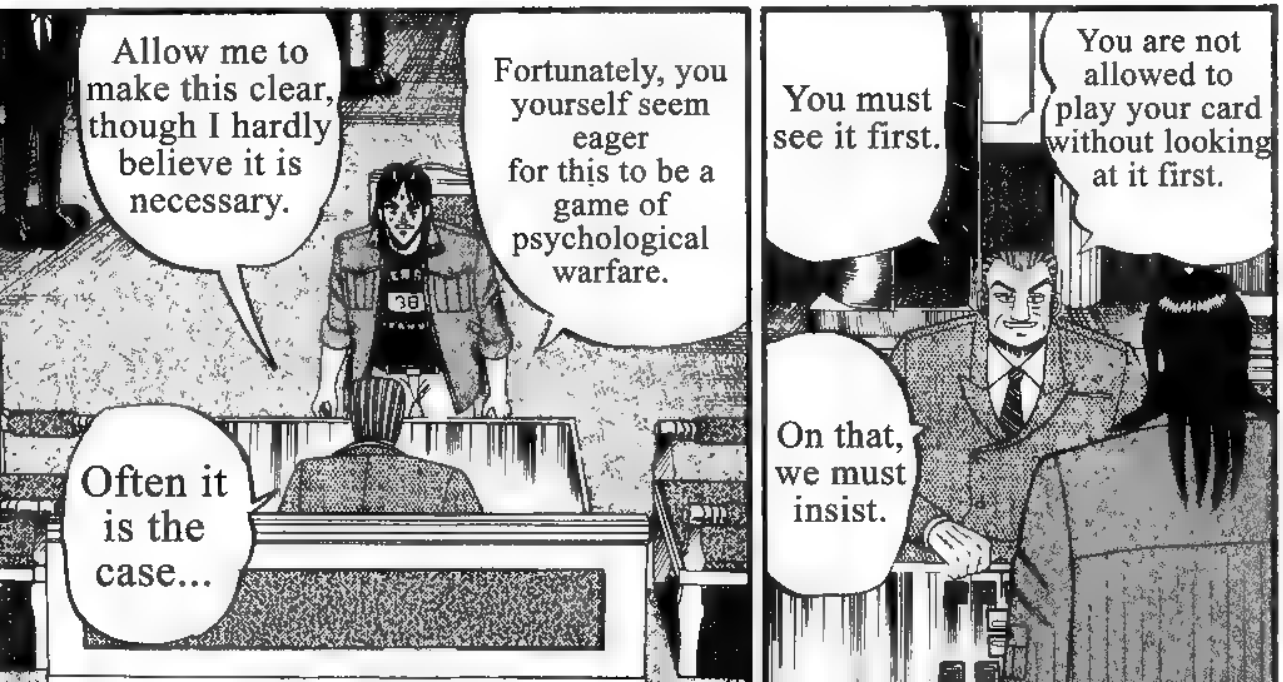
You see ...?

My opponent is Tonegawa...!
Heheh ...

You cannot win.
With me as your opponent you stand no chance.

...I would not be able to win either.
...then I suppose ...
... without looking at them first ...
... meaning that you just threw your cards randomly ...
...if you were to play according to chance ...
Of course ...


...that is against the rules.
In Emperor, unfortunately ...
The odds really would be 50-50...
However ...
If you were lucky you might even come out ahead.


Allow me to make this clear, though I hardly believe it is necessary.
Fortunately, you yourself seem eager for this to be a game of psychological warfare.
Often it is the case...
You must see it first.
You are not allowed to play your card without looking at it first.
On that, we must insist.

...and simply play their cards according to chance!
...that my opponent will give up on attempting to read me...
...especially when they find themselves facing a soldier as superior as myself....

...that is the one tactic which is not permitted in Emperor.
So you see...
In other words ...

If this were to happen at the climax of our match it would be most disappointing ...
It would destroy the very spirit of the game.

Hehehe ...
.....
ERS
38
ERAMU

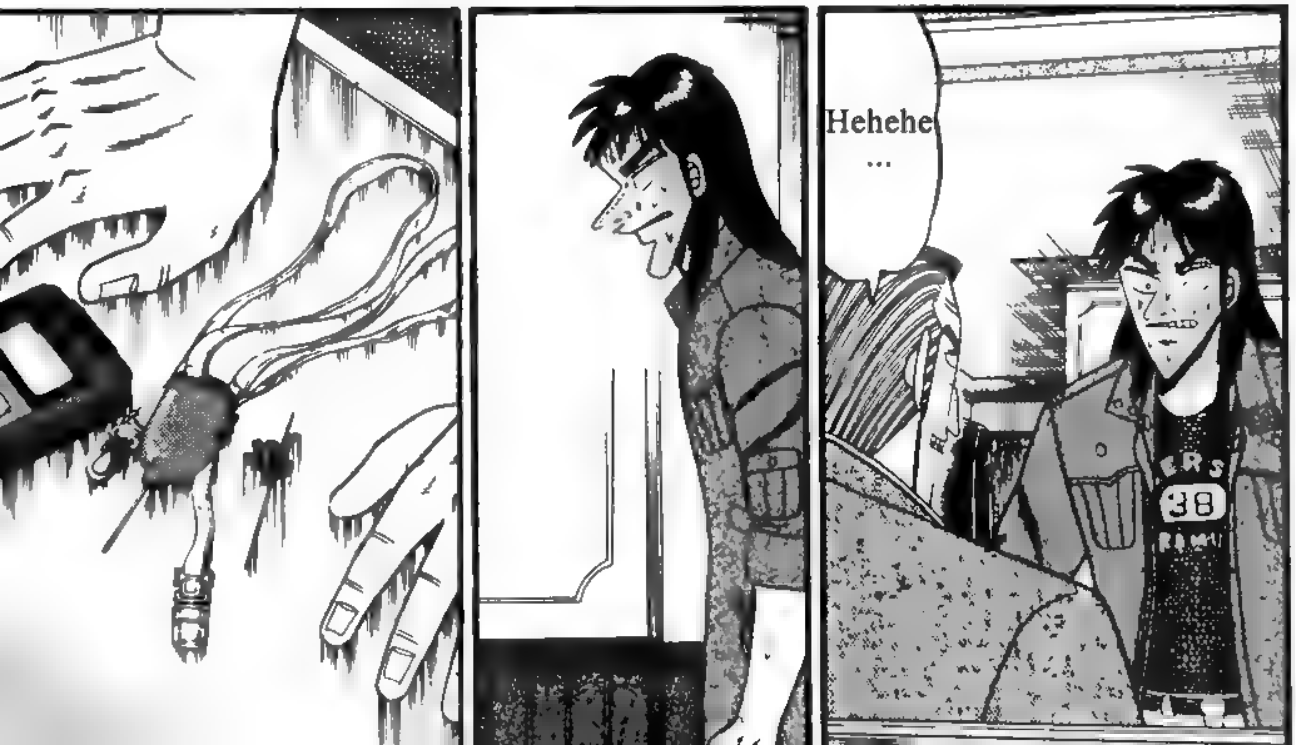
We must look at our cards first...
Before each match we must hoist the sails, so to speak...
Absolutely ...!

You look at me as if I am saying the most obvious thing in the world ...
...but this point ...
...is fundamental.
Confirming our cards first ...
...is what makes Emperor ...
...a sophisticated game of psychological warfare...
...rather than a mere matter of odds.
It is different from pointless and barbaric games of chance where everything boils down...
The ability to read each other takes precedence over the element of chance.
...to the luck of the draw.
Which means, Kaiji-kun, that just as you expected ...
...this game will be one of wits...
... where you must use your intellect to defeat your opponent!

...is what separates victory from defeat!
The ability to see through your opponent...
...your chances at winning this game are zero.
That means, Kaiji-kun ...
.....
Hehehe ...
Out of twelve matches, at best I think you can hope ...
...to win 4.
You have no hope of winning ...
...for a long time now...
...to appraise others.
It has been my occupation ...

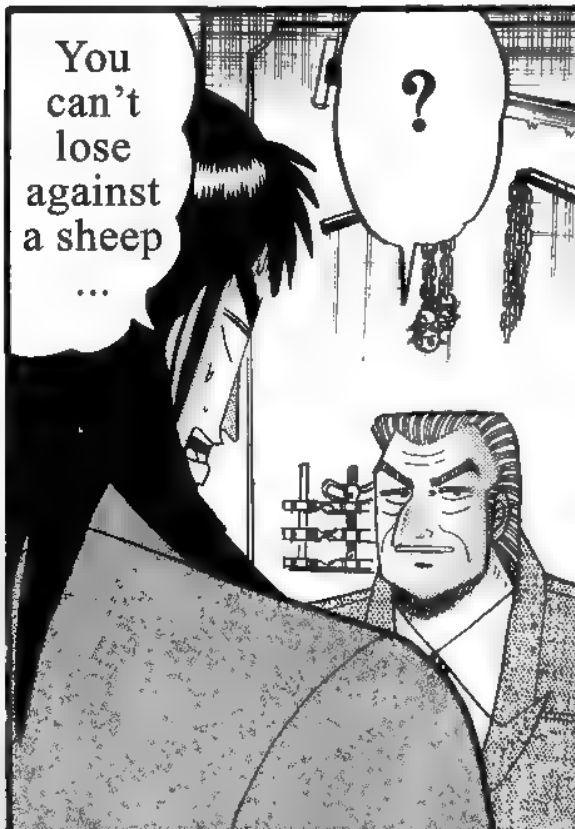
It will come back to bite you later, trust me.
In the end, you're just ...
Hehehe
...running your mouth the way you did.
You're going to regret...
...with just four wins.
You'll never reach 20 million yen...
It isn't possible ...
...another sheep...
... pretending to be a wolf!

38


Hehehe
...
38

You're going to kneel...!

You're positive you can't lose...!?
You're positive about that, right...?


You can't lose against a sheep ...
?

If you lose...
Then I want you to make me a promise.

...and apologize!
...you kneel on the ground...
...and I win the 20 million yen...
And ...
And you apologize to Ishida-san and Sahara...
You apologize for mocking me...
38
...but sure...
There really isn't any reason for me to apologize...
You kneel down on the ground and you apologize ...!
... and all the rest who died!
Hahaha ...

It's a deal.
If I lose I'll kneel down on the floor just like you want.

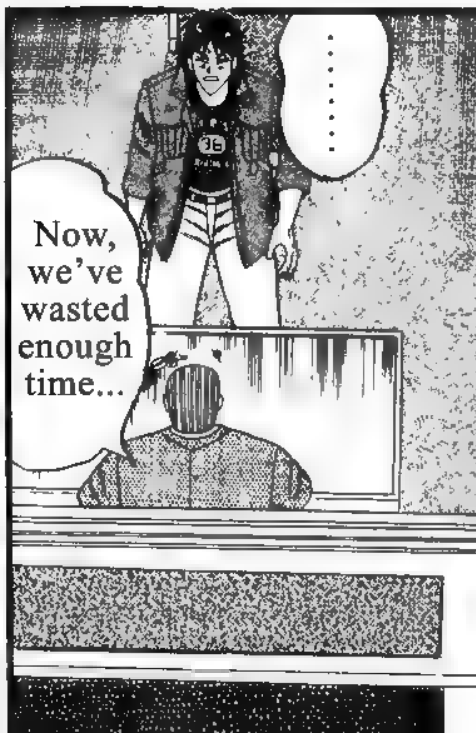
Whatever you like.
... why not?

That is if I lose ...!

Hehehe ...
For real ...!?

It's time that we started.
I believe the director is also growing bored.

...took longer than expected.
This all...

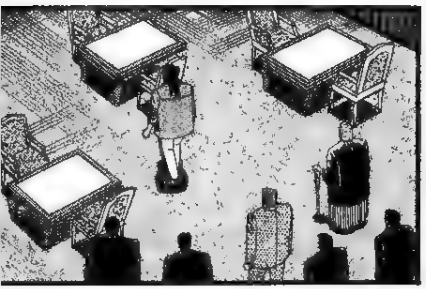

.....
Now, we've wasted enough time...

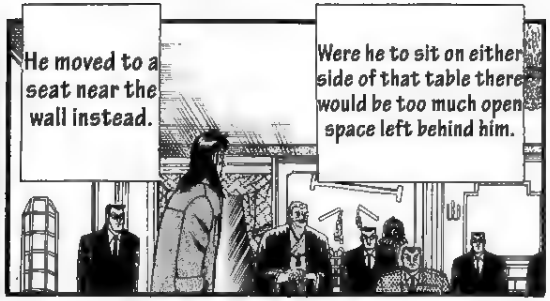
Which are you going to gamble ...!?
Which is it...?
Decide.
An eye ...
...or an ear?
ERS
38
RAMU

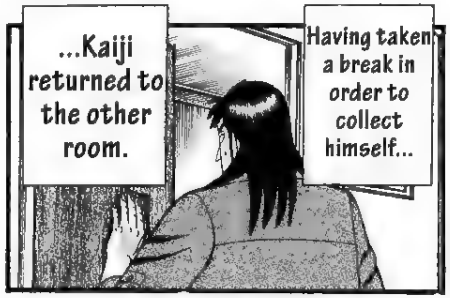
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

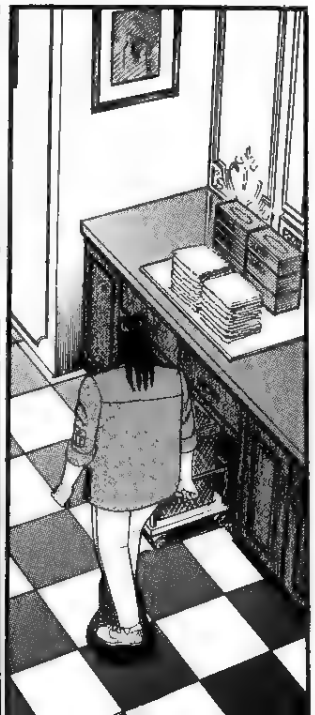
Kaiji ...
... chose his ear.
SPLASH
HRRK
...on the Emperor's side.
...he chose to play first ...
SCRUB
SCRUB
Next ...
...it was time to begin...
Once he left the bathroom ...
WHOOSH

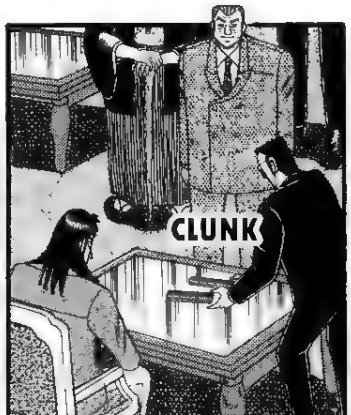
The Game of Emperor...!

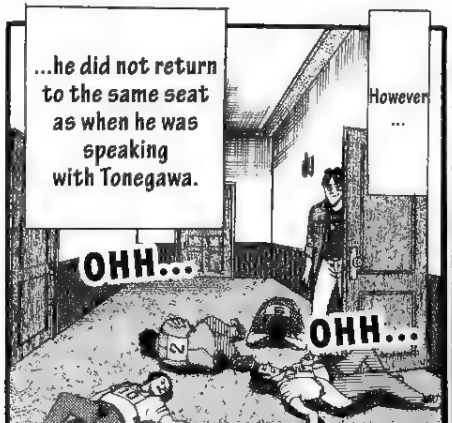


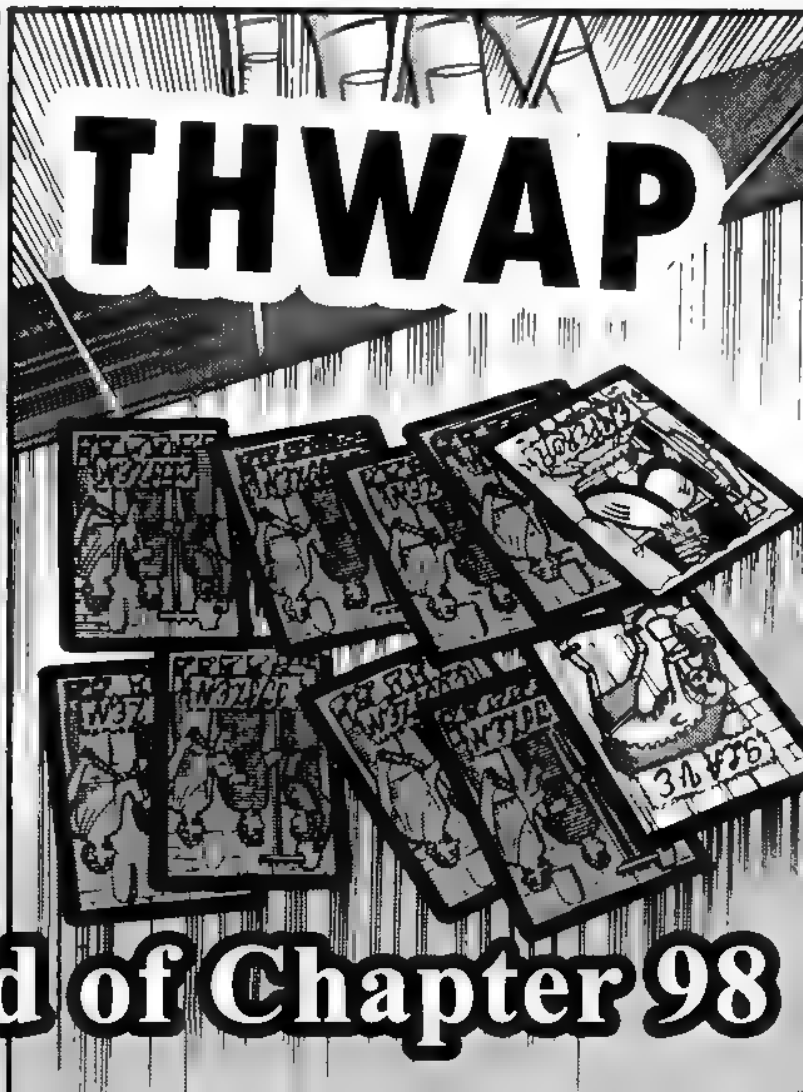






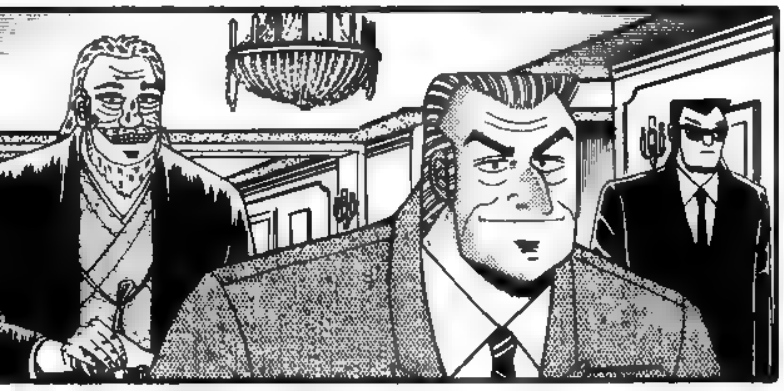


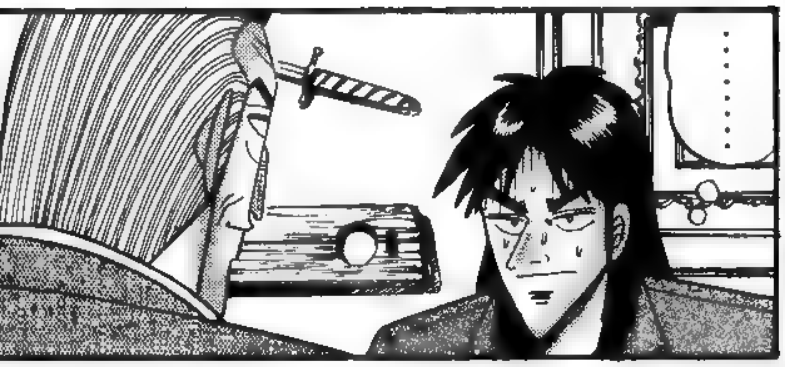


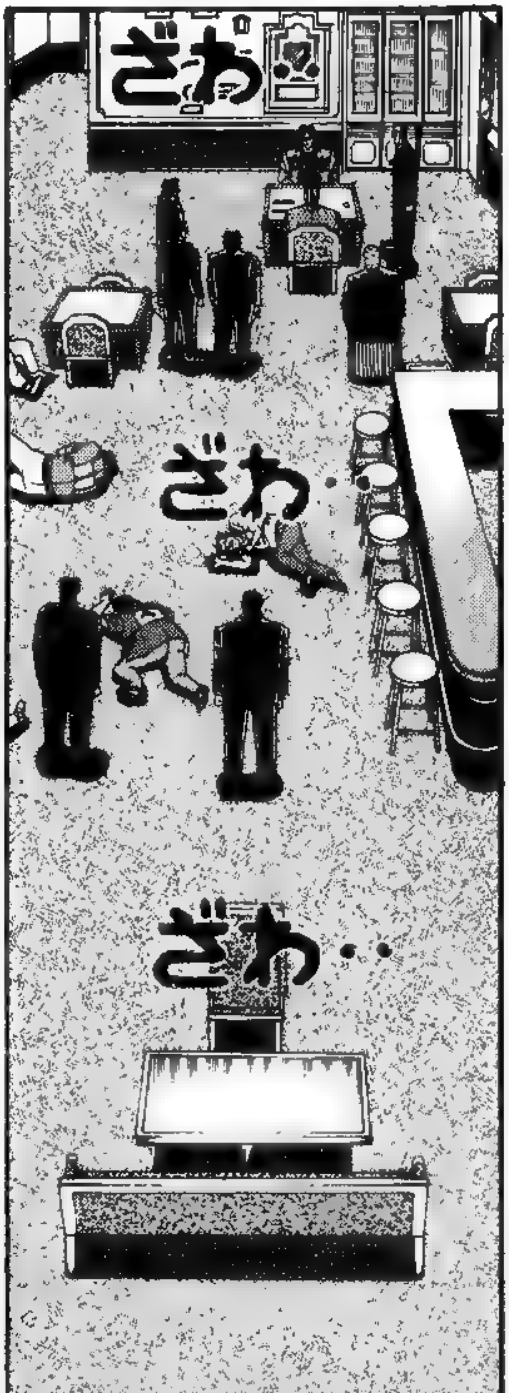


End of Chapter 98

Chapter 99: To Arms







Time to begin ...
...the game of Emperor!

...I lose my ear.
If I lose ...
... unusual wager.
A strange ...
.....
It's ability to hear ...!
Hmph ...
Huh ...?
RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE
... this is going to be...
In the game to follow...
This is how they track a player's bouts in sumo.
They made it while you were in the bathroom, Kaiji-kun.
You see ...
39

Kaiji Ito		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Team	Emperor			Slave			Emperor			Slave		
	Win / Loss												
	Distance Bet												
	Total Distance												

...your personal scoresheet!

...the needle has advanced so far are also displayed.

Team
Win / Loss
Distance Bet
Total Distance

...and the total distance...

...the amount of needle distance lost that match...

Kaiji Ito
Team
Win / Loss
Distance Bet
Total Distance

Additionally ...

CLANG

...not to be ...

Also ...

... overly fussy...

It's all there ...!

.....

Hehehe ...

Ahh ...!

...all the necessary elements are included in this chart!

As you can see...

...with Emperor or Slave at the time.

... whether you were playing ...

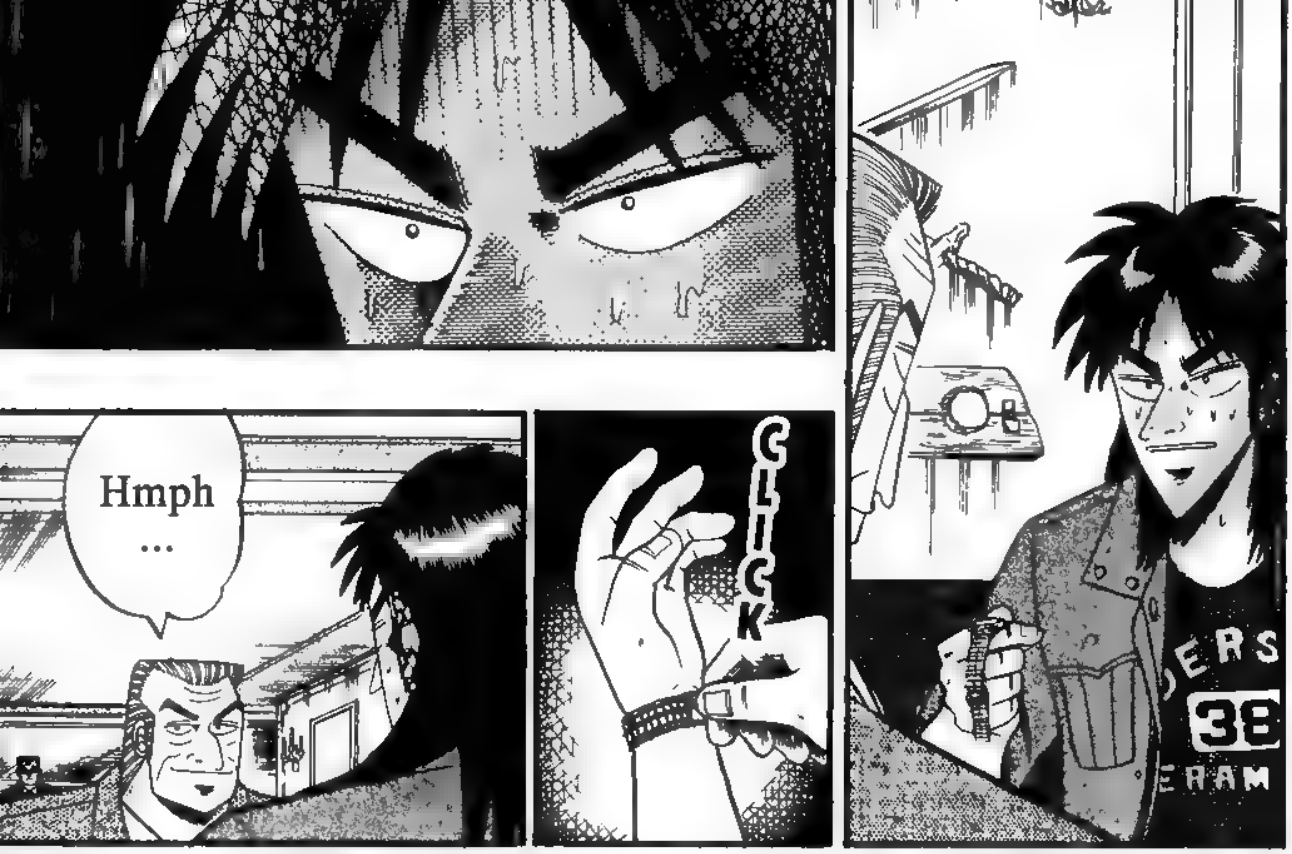
1 2 3
Emperor
Slave

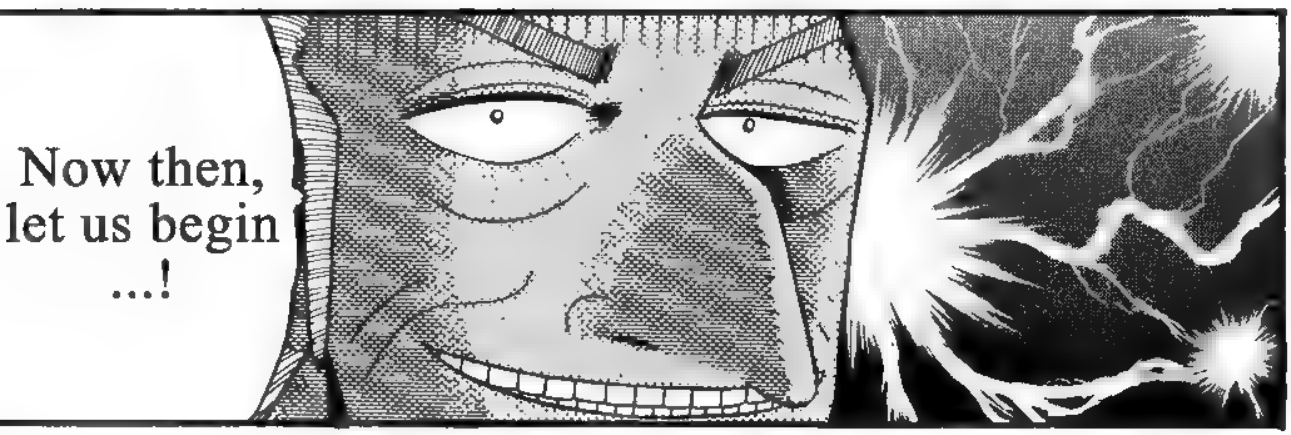
..as well as...

First is wins and losses...

Team
Win / Loss
Kaiji Ito
Distance Bet

...but this is for you!
Five minutes ...!
...so we are setting a time limit to choosing the cards.
If you spend too much time the game will lose interest...
?.....
...and I appear to be wasting time, needlessly ...
Likewise, if I should hesitate in choosing...
I'll be measuring the time you have left...
...with this watch here, Kaiji-kun.
...that such a situation will occur.
...it is highly doubtful ...
Heheheh...
Of course ...
...you can time me with that.


Hmph
...
CLICK
38


Now then, let us begin ...!

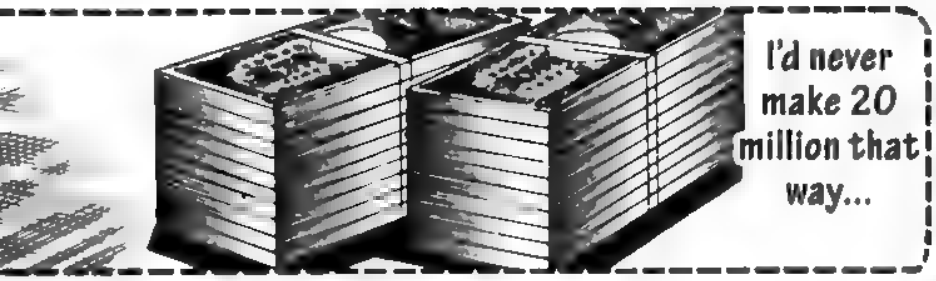
Now then ...
...you are going to bet!
... you need to decide just how much distance ...
First of all, Kaiji-kun...

...how many millimeters will it be!?

Emperor
Slave
Emperor
Slave
12 matches ...
...is approximately 30mm.
The distance of the needle from starting position to my eardrum...
Emperor
12
Slave
...even if I were to lose every single match the needle would only advance 24mm.
I would be safe...
If I were to bet 2mm at a time...
...the amount which I can lose is 30mm total.
In other words ...
No ...
5mm would be on my sixth lost...
3mm and the eardrum would be ruptured on my tenth lost.
38

...and I keep winning...
If I win...
I should think about what happens when I win...!
About what happens when I lose ...!?
Is that really the way I should be thinking...!?
I've got it all wrong...!
Let's see...
...and two of my six matches as the Slave...
...then if I win five of my six matches as the Emperor...
...and I bet 5mm at a time...
7.5 million...
...is 750...
50x5 is 250 ...two times over is 500...
The two wins on the Slave's side would net five times the return...
...so the total...
...so 2.5 million yen...
The Emperor's side would be 50x5...

38


I'd never make 20 million that way...

It's not enough ...!

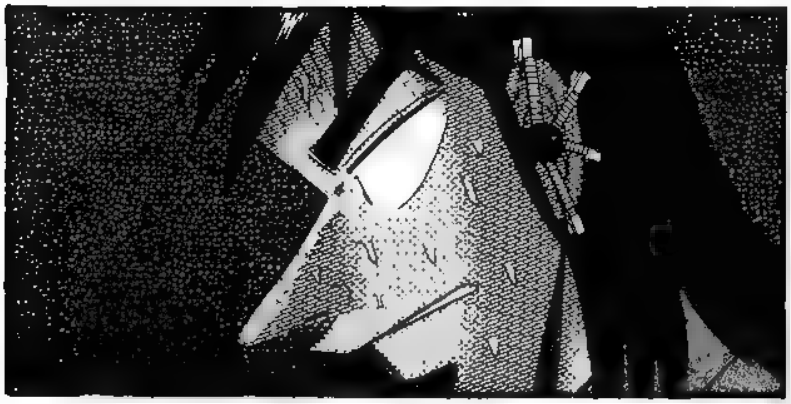
I still wouldn't make it...
...will only get me 8 or 10 million.

Even eight out of twelve!..
If I bet 5mm at a time, seven wins out of twelve wouldn't be enough...

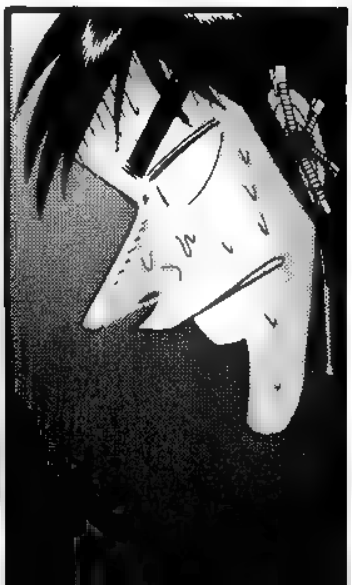
The first bet and you're already taking so long to decide...
What's wrong, Kaiji-kun...!?

Hehehe ...
5mm just isn't enough ...!

.....
Hehehe...
It's gonna be hard going at this rate...



Huh ...?
Ten ...

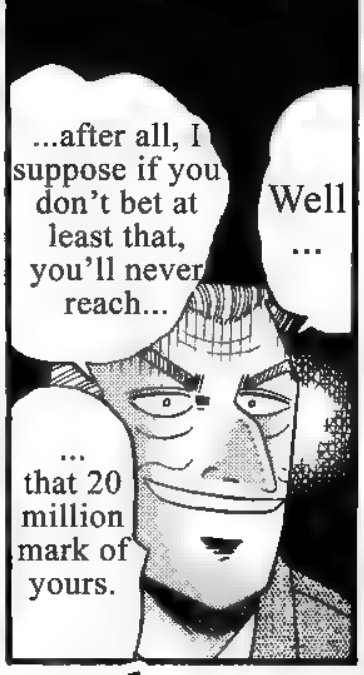


ERS
38
ERAMU

10 millimeters ...!

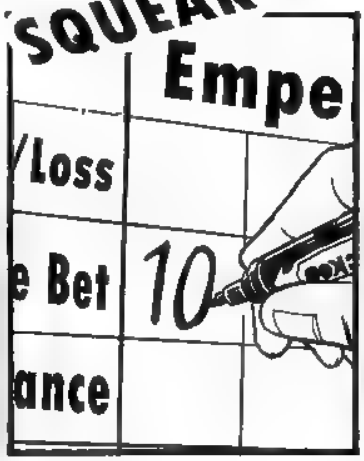
Shut up ...!
Are you sure...? If you bet 10mm at a time it will only take three losses before...
Hehehe ...

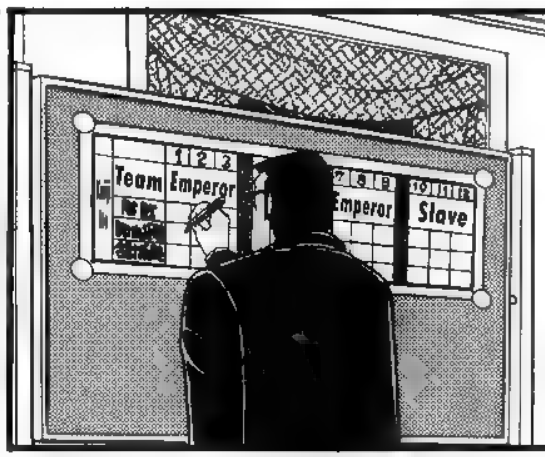
Slave
Emperor
Slave
Oi ...!

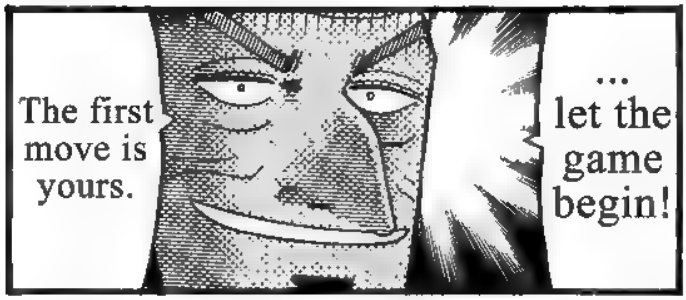

...after all, I suppose if you don't bet at least that, you'll never reach...
Well ...
... that 20 million mark of yours.

Hehehe ...
I said 10 millimeters ...!

.....

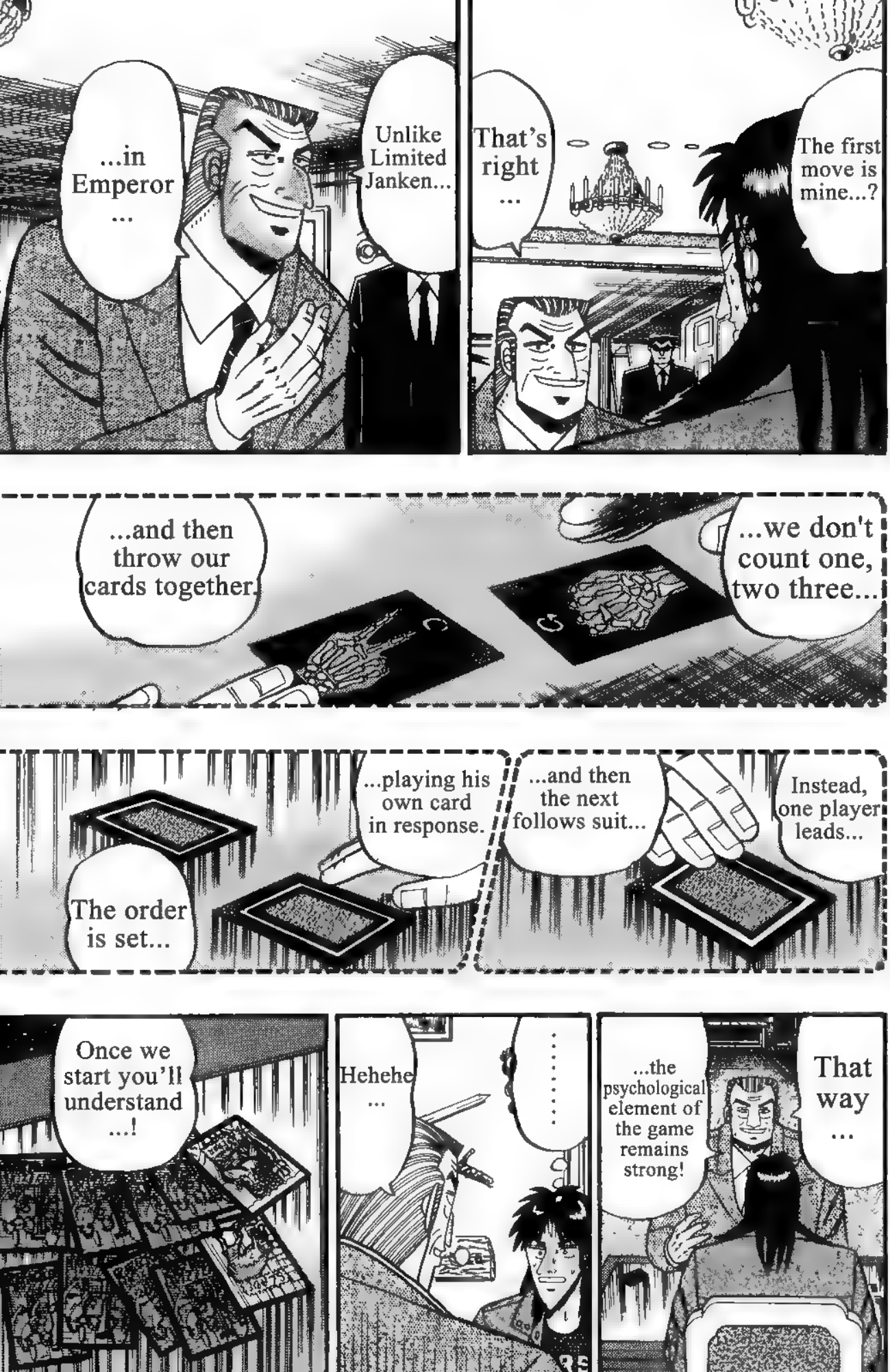

SQUEAK
Empe
/Loss
e Bet
ance
10


Team
Emperor
Emperor
Slave

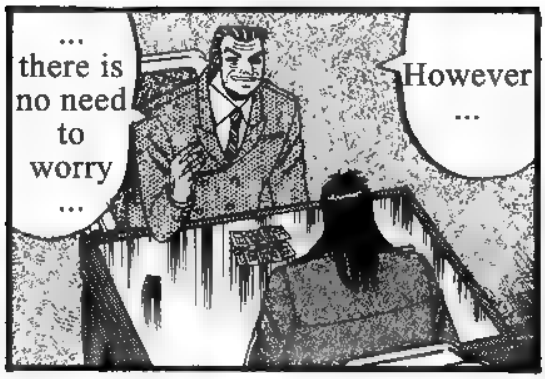

The first move is yours.
... let the game begin!

Now then ...
.....

Select your card and set it on the table...


...in Emperor ...
Unlike Limited Janken...
That's right ...
The first move is mine...?
...and then throw our cards together.
...we don't count one, two three...
The order is set...
...playing his own card in response.
...and then the next follows suit...
Instead, one player leads...
Once we start you'll understand ...!
Hehehe ...
.....
...the psychological element of the game remains strong!
That way ...

That little time lag...
...makes for an exquisite game!


...there is no need to worry...
However...

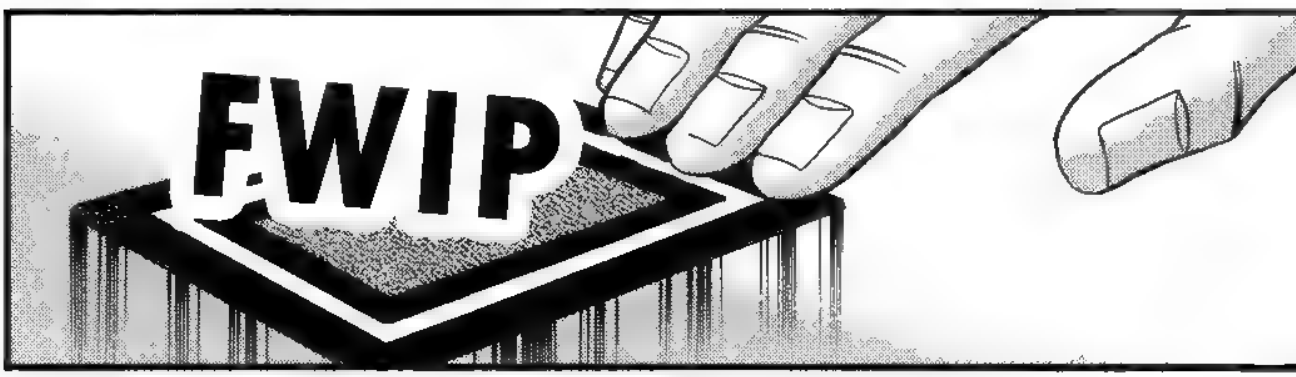
Hehehe...
.....

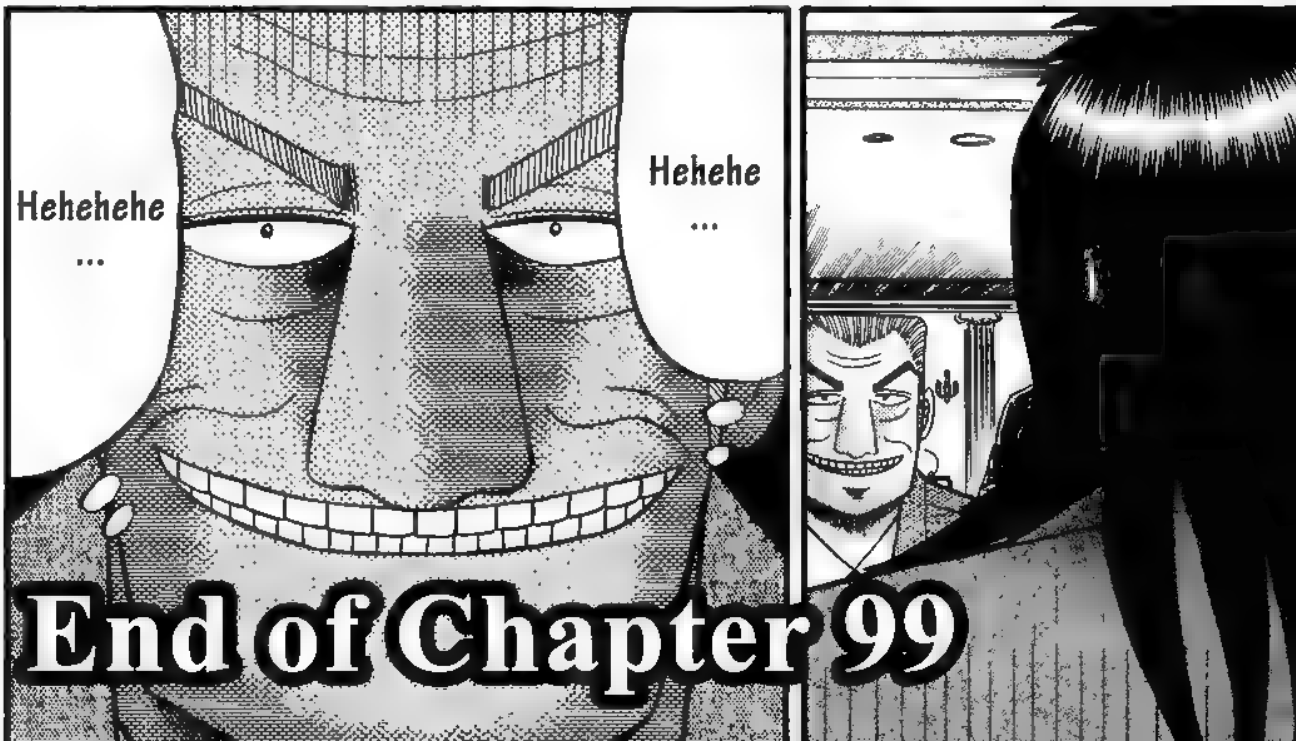
If a third card should be necessary...
...the Slave's side leads.

The Emperor's side leads on the first card...
Both sides will be given their opportunity.
...but on the second...

They take turns...so in the end it's all the same...
...the Emperor's side leads once more.

...they possess an overwhelming advantage.
...as you are already aware...
...the Emperor's side plays first because ...
However ...
FWIP
...in order to protect, to some degree, their odds of winning.
...to the outnumbered Slave's side...
...it is a small courtesy paid...
In other words ...
The Emperor's side is first...!
Play your card ...
Now then ...
.....

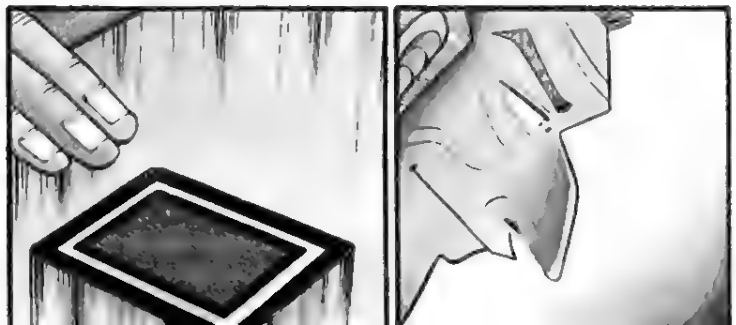




End of Chapter 99

It had finally begun...!

Chapter 100: Fires of War

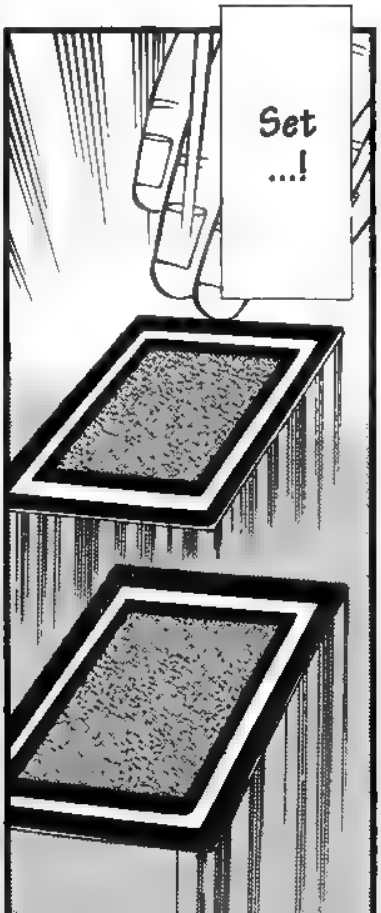


Tonegawa, from the Slave's side...!!

Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

...to show them.
Once both cards were set, it was time...

Play ...!


Set ...!

CITIZEN
EMPEROR
Hmph ...
Yes...! Yes...!
Yes ...!
Ahh ...!
Tonegawa: Kaiji: Citizen Emperor ...! ...!
Of the 30mm of space he could gamble before the needle pierced his eardrum...
The first match had paid off...!
Yes ...!
One down ...!
Kaiji's win...!
...Kaiji had wagered 10. Victory...and the reward for his risk...
EMPEROR

THUD
...
was 1
million
yen!
How
...
...before
I made
this much
money?
But
just
now...
How long
would I
have to
work...
Ahh
...!

Can it really be this easy...?
.....
I can't believe it...!
...I won all of it.
...in the space of ten seconds ...
It's so much money ...
Have I forgotten ...
...what I'm wagering with here!?
Listen to what I'm saying...!
.....
Hold on a second ...!

ERS
38

Why am I getting excited over 1 million yen...!?
It's worth as much ...!

My ability to hear
My ear ...!

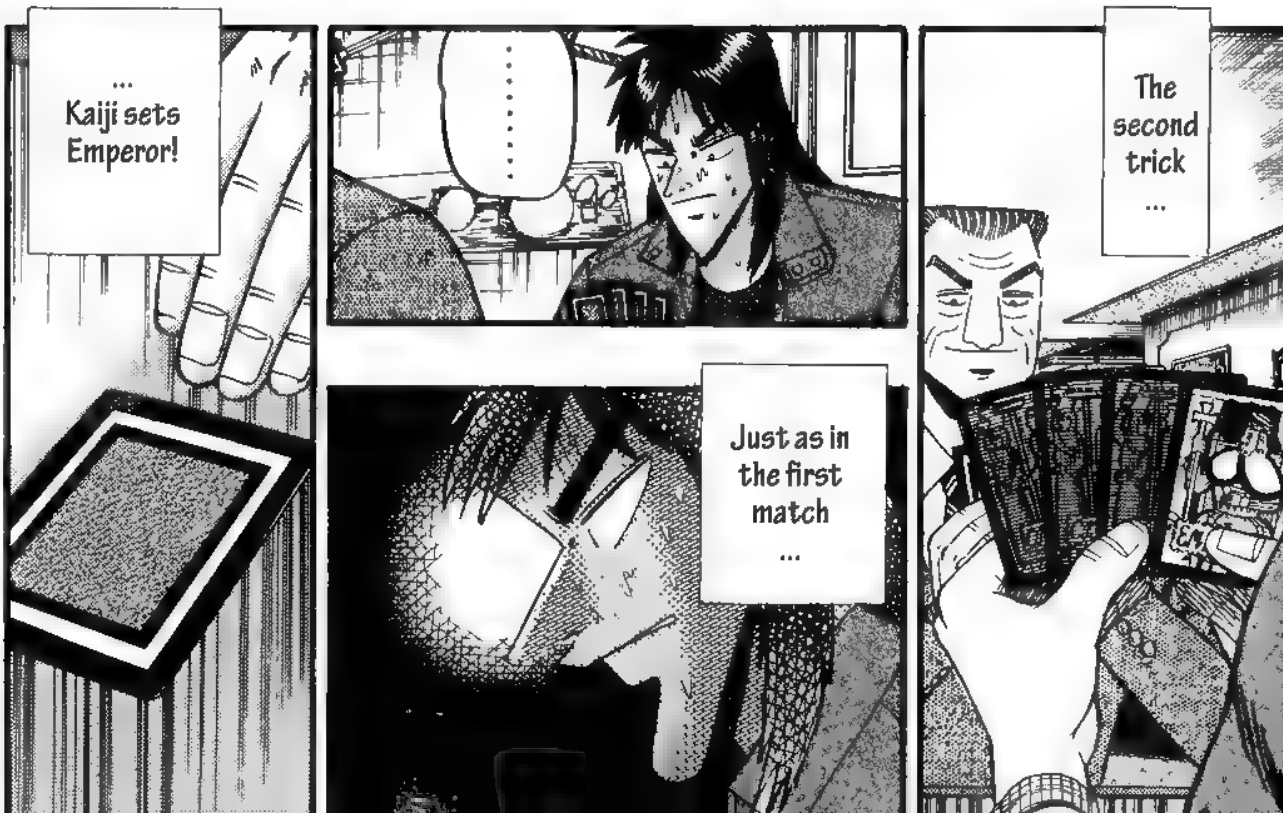
Remember ...!
I'm still a good ways off from the 20 million yen I need to win

... just a drop in the bucket ...
This is still ...

How much Ishida-san suffered...
... those who died this night...
And remember ...
How much they turned into scraps of paper...!
Remember what they took away ...
Now then ...
Hmph ...
Remember ...!
10 millimeters ...!
Hehehe ...
The same as before...10 millimeters ...!
How much will you bet, Kaiji-kun ...?
Shall we begin the second match ...?

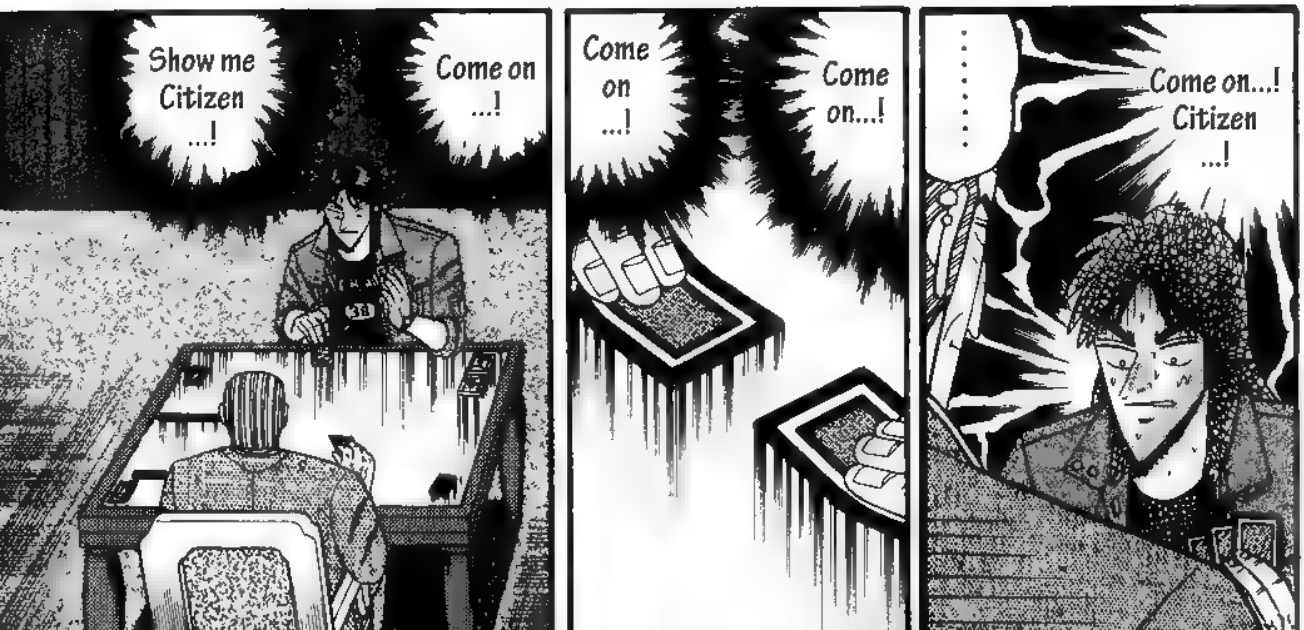
Keep it up and that 20 million ...
... might not be out of your reach after all!
Good, good ...
Stay the course ...

...both Kaiji and Tonegawa lead with Citizen, for a draw.
Once again ...
The second match.
.....
Hehehe ...


... Kaiji sets Emperor!
.....
Just as in the first match ...
The second trick ...

Kaiji's strategy ...
... was to play counter to Tonegawa's expectations...
... by playing the same cards as the first match!

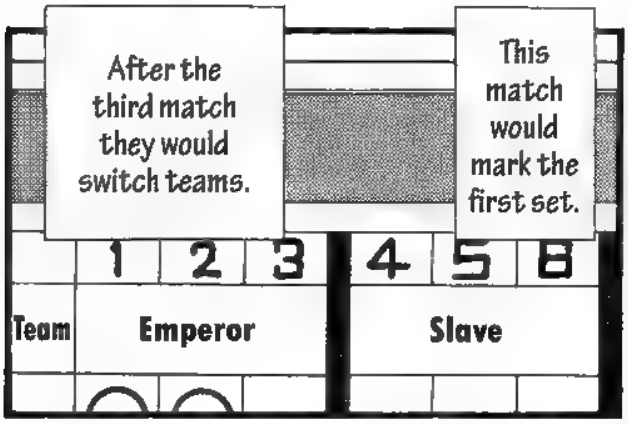
Play ...!
F WIP
Had he succeeded ...!?

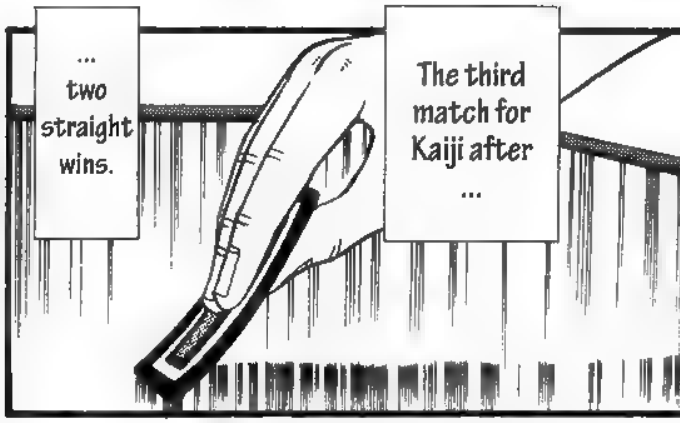

Show me Citizen ...!
Come on ...!
Come on ...!
Come on...!
.....
Come on...! Citizen ...!

EMPEROR
Citizen ...!
FWAP
FWAP
Hmph ...
Yes...! Yes...!
Two in a row ...!
Yes ...!
Yes ...!
EMPEROR

This is easier than I thought ...!
I can't believe it...
Eeeeeekkk ...!
Yes ...!
Another 1 million ...!
Hmph ...
... but that's two easy wins.
I know I've got the advantage on the Emperor's side...
... out of Tonegawa ...
I expected more ...
There it is ...
Eh ...?
.....
A little bit at a time ...
... on your wavelength, Kaiji-kun ...
I'm finally starting to pick up ...

The third match ...
He can get mouth off once he starts actually winning...!
... but it sounds like sour grapes ...
I don't know what he's talking about...
.....
Hehehe ...
?.....

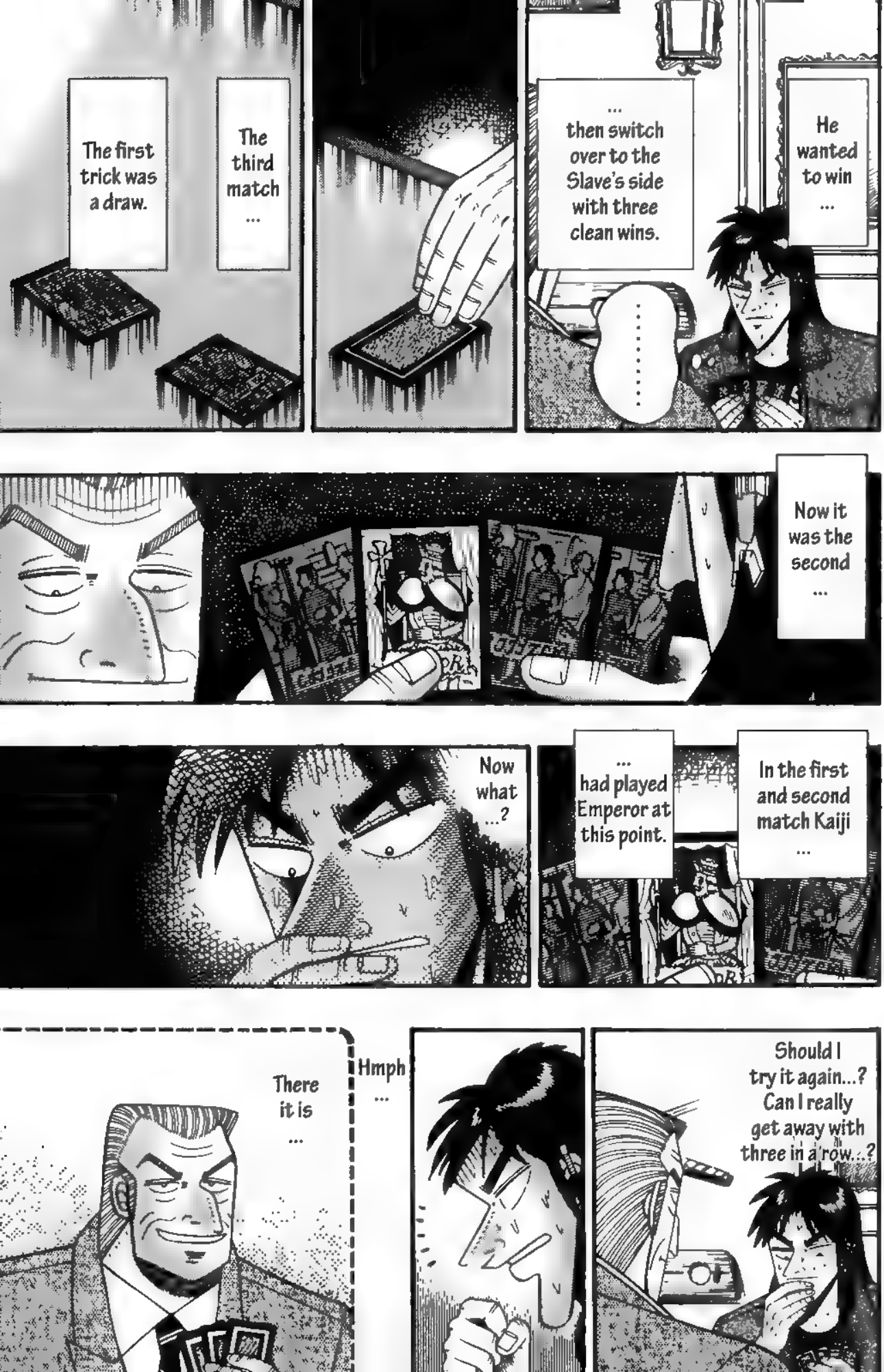

After the third match they would switch teams.
This match would mark the first set.
1 2 3 4 5 6
Team
Emperor
Slave


... two straight wins.
The third match for Kaiji after ...

... the advantage as Emperor, he wanted to win...
While he still held ...

...from the Slave's side, where the odds will be against him.
After this match Kaiji will have to play his fourth, fifth and sixth ...

... just one more match!
... one more time ...

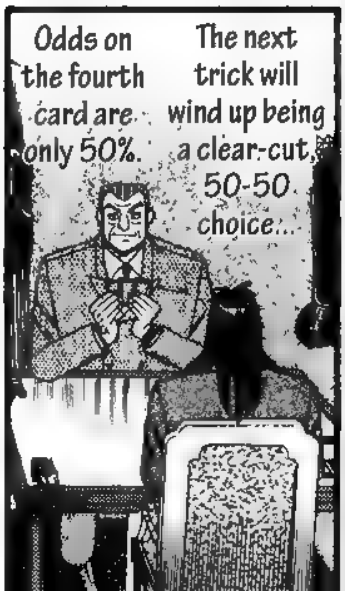

The first trick was a draw.
The third match ...
... then switch over to the Slave's side with three clean wins.
He wanted to win ...
Now it was the second ...
Now what ...?
... had played Emperor at this point.
In the first and second match Kaiji ...
There it is ...
Hmph ...
Should I try it again...? Can I really get away with three in a row...?

Man ...!
FWIP
...
on your wavelength, Kaiji-kun ...
I'm finally starting to pick up...
Kaiji's second card ...
THWAP
Play ...!
For the first time he chooses Citizen.

Come on...!
Come on...! Slave ...!
I wanna see you take yourself out...!
Hehehehe ...
Ahh ...!
: Hehehe
FWAP
A draw ...!

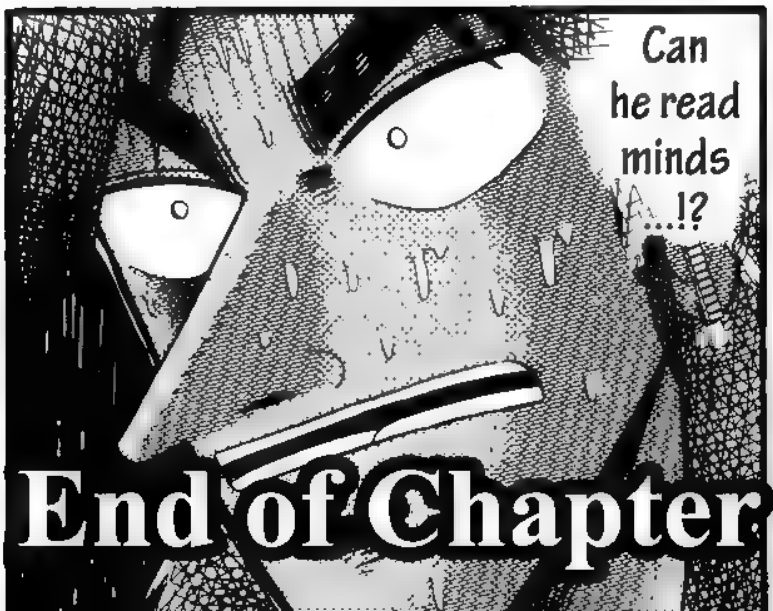
The third trick!!

Man ...!



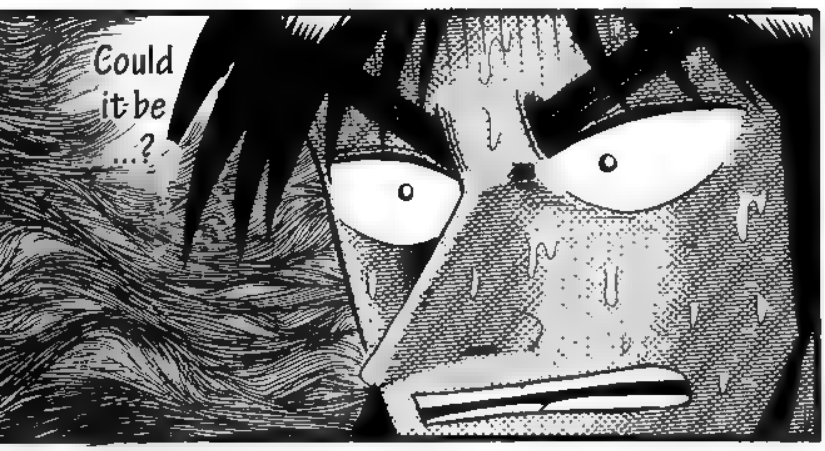
Kaiji set Emperor ...!
.....
Come on ...! Citizen ...!
His third card was Emperor ...!
I'm hearing you loud and clear now ...
Forget about wavelengths ...
You know, when you pray that hard I can almost hear you...
Show me Citizen ...!
Come on! Come on! Come on ...!
Hehehe...

"Come on, Citizen,"... right!?
Hmph ...
Ahh ...!
Hehehe ...
Not that I really need to see it ...
.....
... Kaiji-kun.
Your turn... let's see your card ...
... I know that your card ...
FWIP
In other words ...
Heheh
Wh ...
What ...!?
THWAP
... is the Emperor!



End of Chapter 100

Chapter 101: Music to the Ear



Did he read mine ...!?

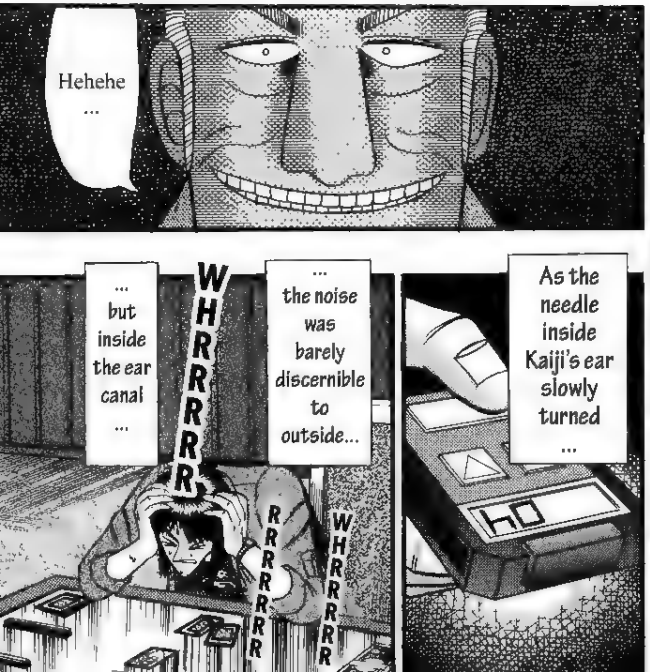
... actually read minds!?

Can he ...!?
Kaiji ...
Ngh ...!
Hurry up and show your card ...!
I've already shown my card.
What are you waiting for ...!?
Hehehe ...
THWAP
Play ...!
Kaiji ...!
Quit holding up the show ...
We're just waiting on yours.

Kaiji played the Emperor ...!
Tonegawa played the Slave ...!
It was Tonegawa's win ...
: Hehehehe
: Hehehehe
... and Kaiji's first loss.
The needle would advance 10mm.
Emperor
Slave
SQUEAK

Hmph ...
4 5 6
Slave
9 10 11 12
Slave
10
10
... and GO!
BEEP
BEEP
The dial is set to 10mm ...
Let's get this over with then ...
WHRRRRR!!

Hehehe
...
WHRRRRRR RRRR
RRRRRRRR RRRR
Ahhhh
...!


Hehehe
...
... but inside the ear canal ...
WHRRRRR
... the noise was barely discernible to outside...
RRRRRRR
WHRRRRR
As the needle inside Kaiji's ear slowly turned ...

Hehehe
...
Augghhh
...!

Ngh
...!
WHRRRRRR
SCRRRCCH
SCRRRCCH

A dissonant, screeching, deranged cascade of noise...!
... the sound was deafening!
WHRRRRRR
RRRRRRRRRR
BEEP
10
BEEP
20
SCRRRCCH
SCRRRCCH
Ngh ...!
It was enough to drive a person mad...!

... for a moment ...
Even after the needle had ceased to move ...
Hehehe ....
BEEP
Tonegawa ...
A disturbing echo reverberated inside his ear.
... Kaiji kept his head in his hands, unable to move!
... if you take things too far the poor boy might lose his nerve.
While I enjoy watching you play with his mind ...
Easy goes it ...

Please don't worry ...
Director ...
I prefer to see some gumption. If he loses his will to fight the game might grow dull...
Hmph ...
Though he may not look like much, Kaiji-kun is a worthier opponent than he may seem...
"See through" ...?
... my little games.
I'm sure he will be able to see through ...

GASP
Easy goes it ...
What does he mean, see through ...?
... if you take it too far ...
While I enjoy watching you play with his mind ...
I'm hearing you loud and clear ...
When you pray that hard I can almost hear you ...
Hmph... there it is ...
... is the Emperor.
... that your card ...
I know ...
"Come on, Citizen"... right!?

BETS
CRS

Hmm ...?
WHOOMPF
Th- That's it ...!
Ahh ...!

If you had ...
You didn't read my mind ...!
Tonegawa... you've been messing with me...!
Eh ...?

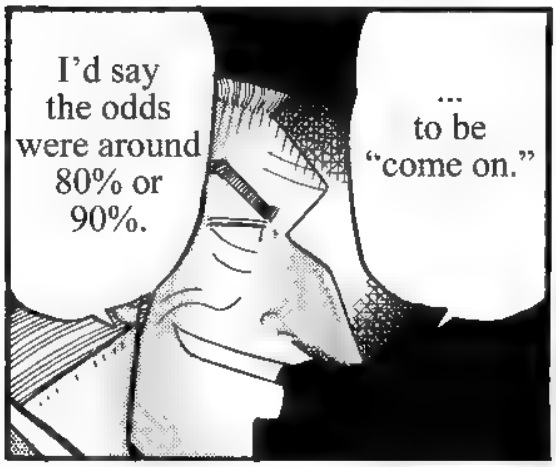
Your prediction came first ...!
But you did it in reverse ...!
... after you had already laid your card.
... then you would have given your prediction ...
Now I see ...
You were reading my expression ...!
It was a trick...! You weren't making a prediction ...!
Hehehe ...
That's how you won ...!
It was my surprise that gave me away...
You were able to see through me...
I'm certain of it ...!
Very good, very good ...
Hahaha ...

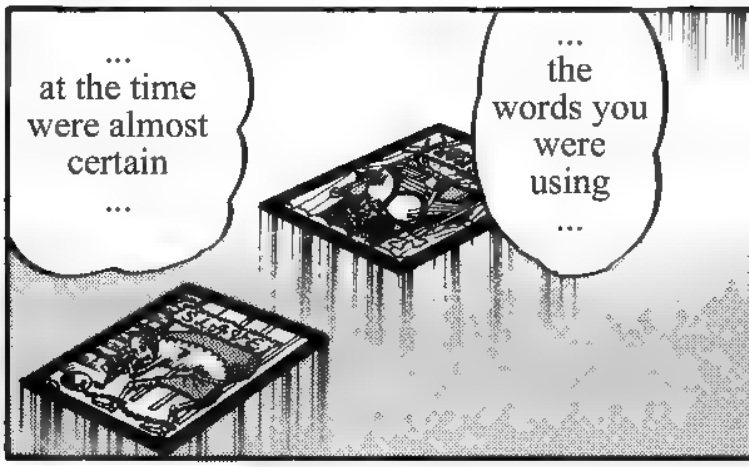
But whether I was praying for Citizen or Slave ...
... was a 50-50 chance!
Now that I think about it ...
...it's only natural that I was praying for the card I wanted.
...but "come on" is what everyone says at times like these.
It's practically a cliché...!
You knew I was thinking "come on, Citizen" ...
Even the "come on" part...
A passable answer ...
Well done, Kaiji-kun.
You are partially right ...!
I give you 50 marks ...
Huh ...?
... is barely surprising!
The fact that you guessed right ...
Hehehe ...

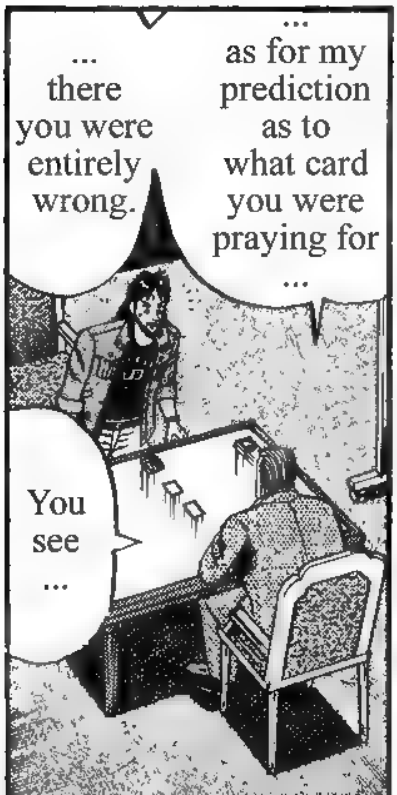
Words like ...
...the words they use to do so are very limited.
Likewise ...
Just as you said ...
... at times like these...
... most people pray for the card they want to see.
Obviously, which words the player uses are dependent on his own personality...
... "come on", are all favorites.
... your own choice ...
..."please", "I'm begging you", "show me" and of course...
In other words ...
"Please" and "I'm begging you" are mostly reserved for when a player is losing...
... the more forward "come on."
...but when they are on a winning streak, most players choose...

So, you see ...
That doesn't really resemble your situation at the time.

When somehow or other you just need ...
... that one win.
... for when it's make-or-break ...


I'd say the odds were around 80% or 90%.
... to be "come on."

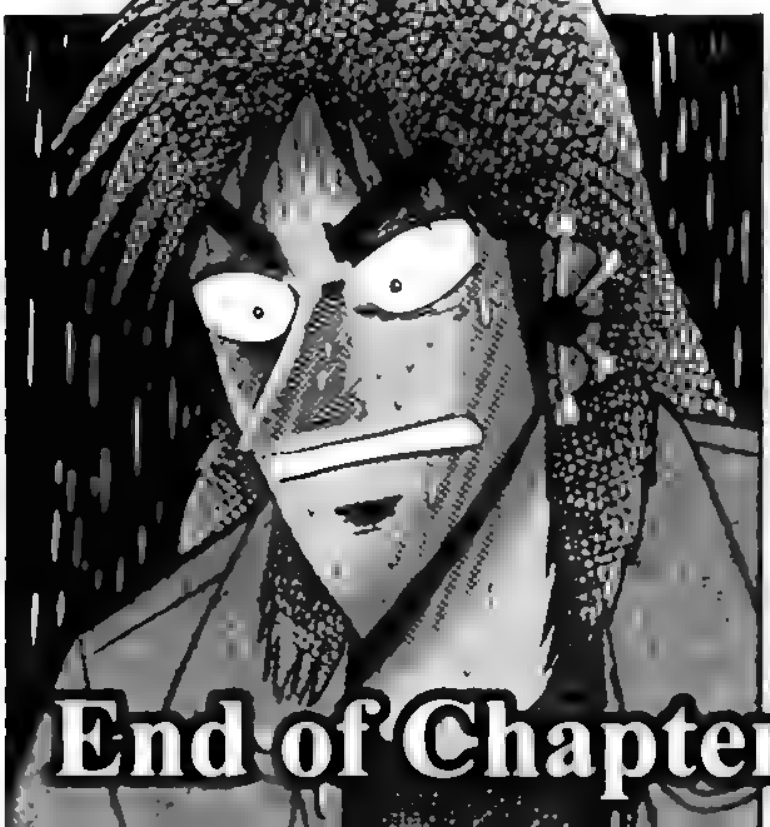

... at the time were almost certain ...
... the words you were using ...


... there you were entirely wrong.
... as for my prediction as to what card you were praying for ...
You see ...

However ...
That part is just as you guessed, Kaiji-kun.

Hmph ...
. . . . . .

You seem to be under the impression ...
... that I simply picked one in the hopes ...
... that I was right.
That it was a bluff, so that I could take advantage of your surprise to guess your card.
Even if I was wrong ...
...it wouldn't have mattered. It's not like I would have lost anything by trying.
But you see ...
... that would be a very crude ...
... and threadbare way to strategize.
So on that point you are entirely wrong ...!
?.....
I am ...?
You are ...
I truly can sense it ...
You see ...
The trembling ...
... of other people's hearts ...
I can know what card ...

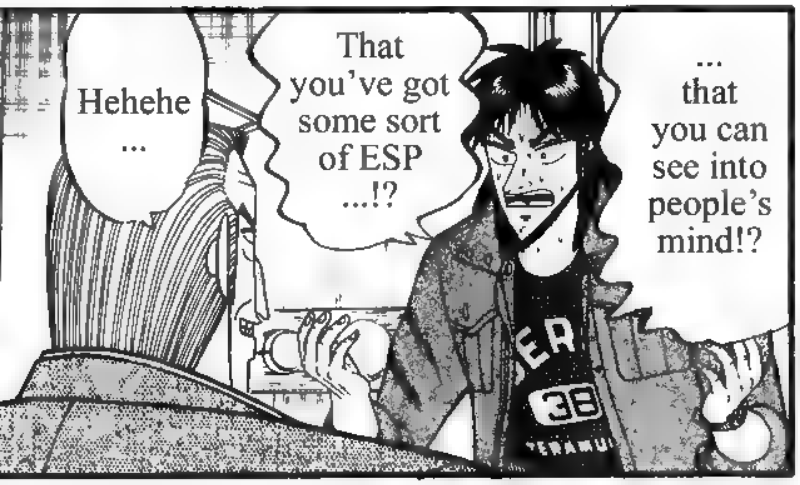


End of Chapter 101

Chapter 102: Infinite Hell

Hehehe ...
Augghhh ...!
That's right ...
Are you trying to say you know what cards I'm going to play...!?
Hehehehehe ...
Get ...
Get serious ...!

That's ridiculous ...!


Hehehe ...
That you've got some sort of ESP ...!?
... that you can see into people's mind!?

Are you telling me ...
People just aren't made that way ...!

... I suppose that pragmatically I can do something similar.
Huh ..?

You've got me wrong.
Not at all ...
However ...

It's all a matter of experience ...!
ERS
38
ERAMU

Listen, Kaiji-kun ...
Heheh ...

Watching people who are trapped in extreme conditions ...
Watching crazed sheep like you gamble with life and death...
.....
I've been doing this work for a long time...10 ...20 years...
ERS
... which part of their bodies ... responds to the twitching of their hearts, to their thoughts ...
I've learned to see ...
... at dead-ends in their mortal lives.
...I can already see, for the most part ...
So you see, after only a match or two of Emperor ...
... and their expectations.
I've already got you ...
.....
ERS
38
.. on your personality, and habits.
That's right... I've already got a fix on you...
... Kaiji-kun.
... what type of person you are ...

... in the palm of my hand.

Hehehe ...

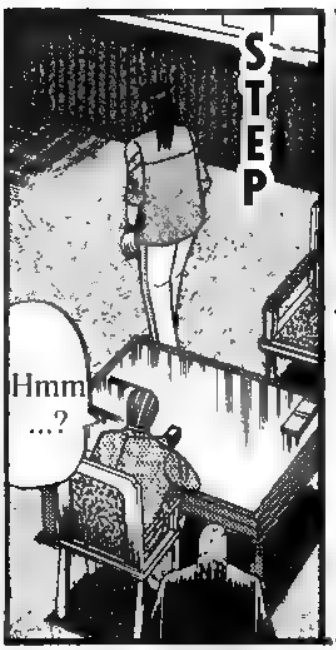
... trapped within my grasp.
For the next 9 matches you will thrash and you will flounder ....

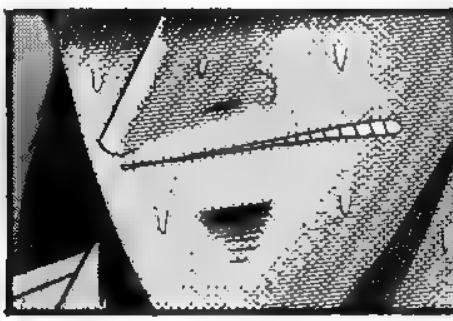
38

You win one match ...
... and you think you can just brag away?
Get real ...!
But I suppose ...
THUD
I'm afraid you're mistaken ...
Hehehe ...
You're nothing but talk ...!
... to change teams!
It's time ...
... you'll see soon enough.
This time you play as the Slave's side ...
THWAP

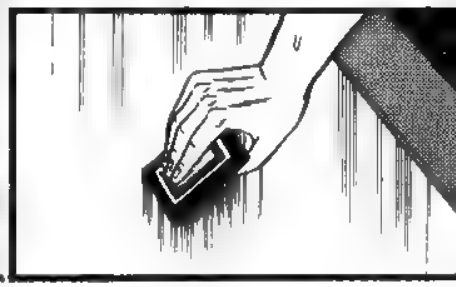
ERS
38

Where are you going ...?

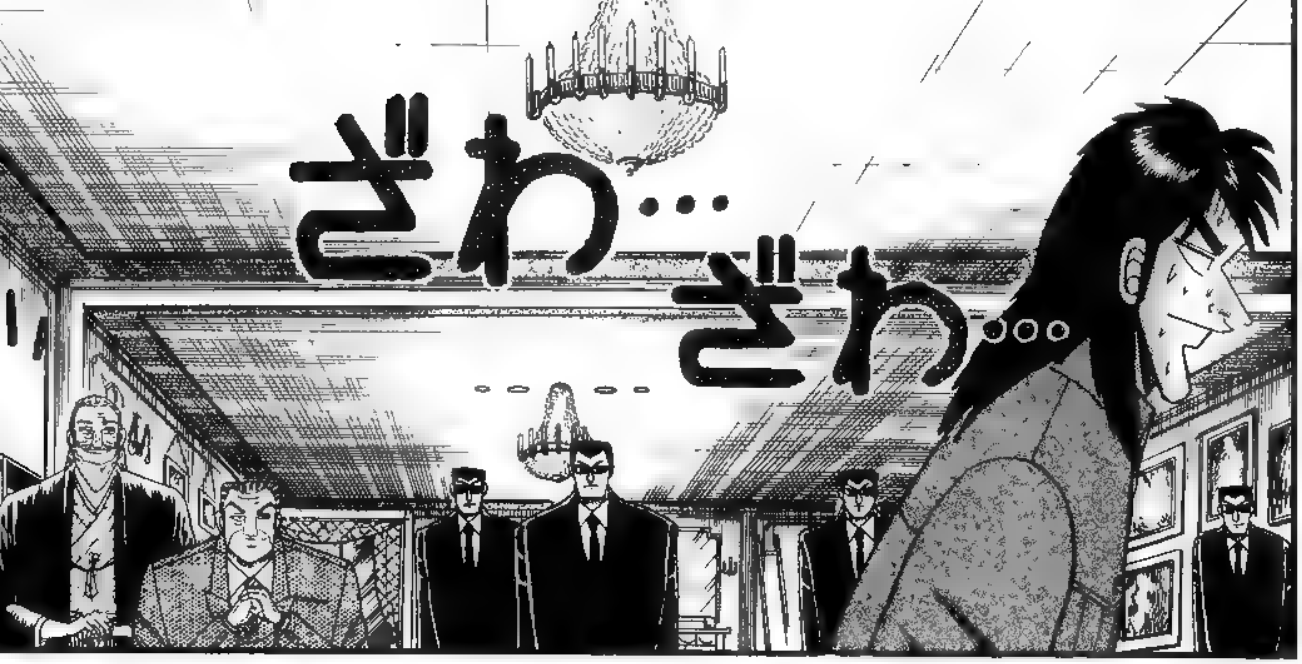

STEP
Hmm ...?

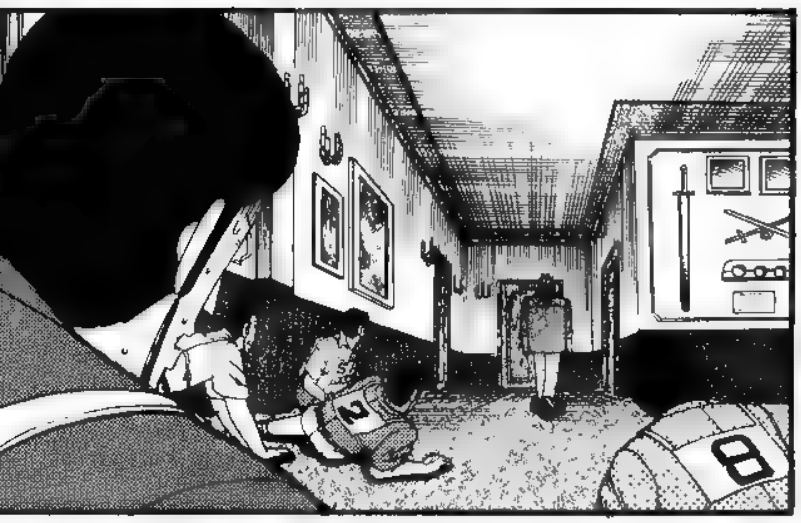


I'm gonna go wash my face ...



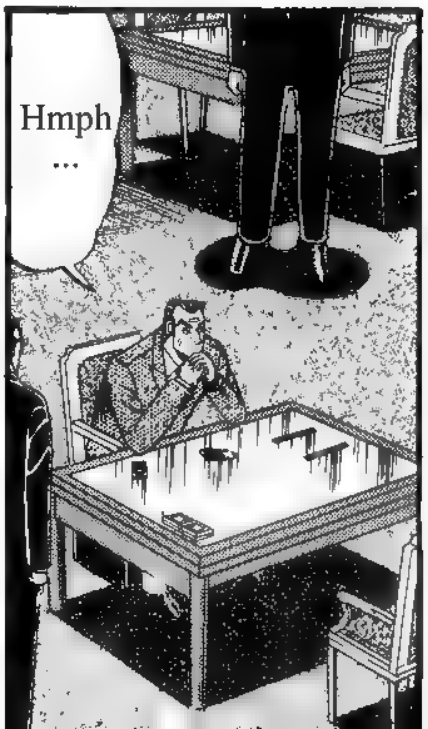
I'm taking a break ...!
All your boasting has left a bad taste in my mouth.
38
RAMUDA


ざわ…
ざわ…

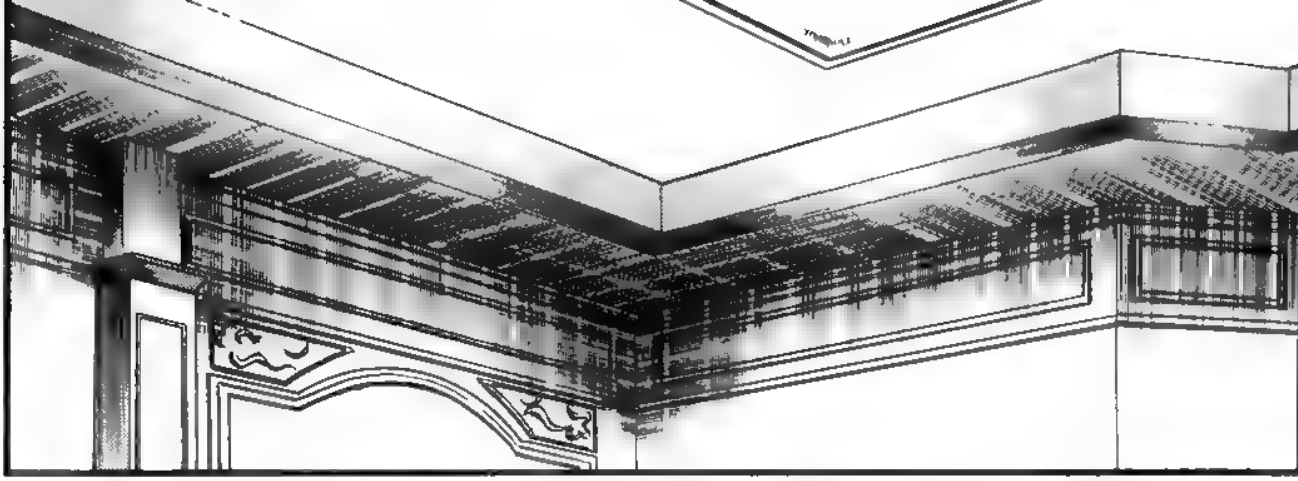


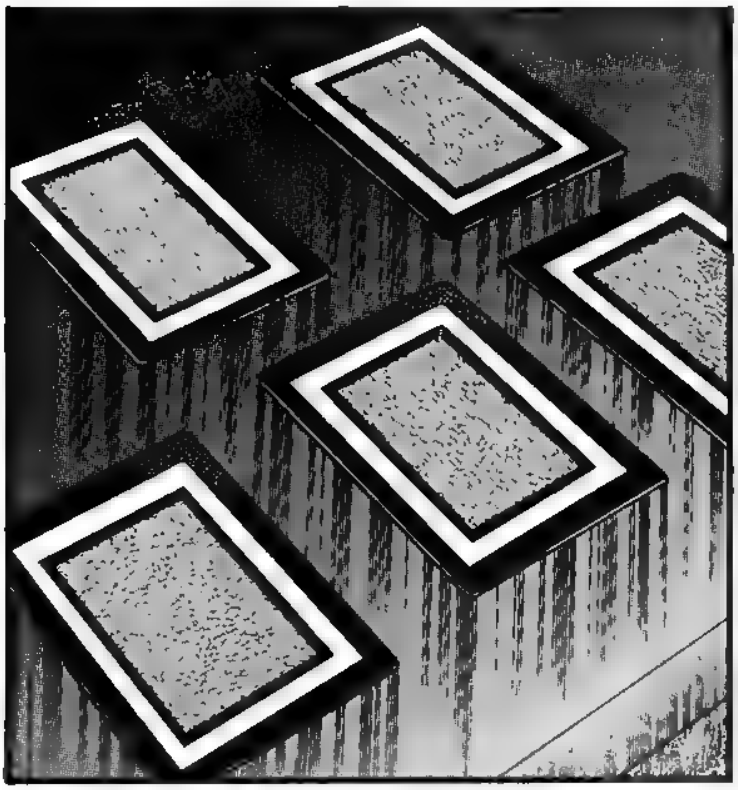
ざわ…
……

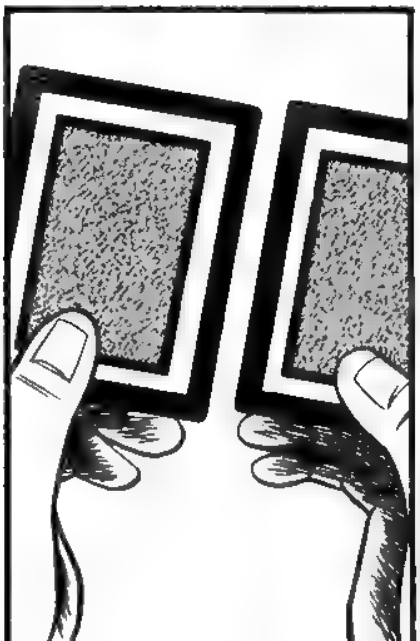
Hehehe
…
……

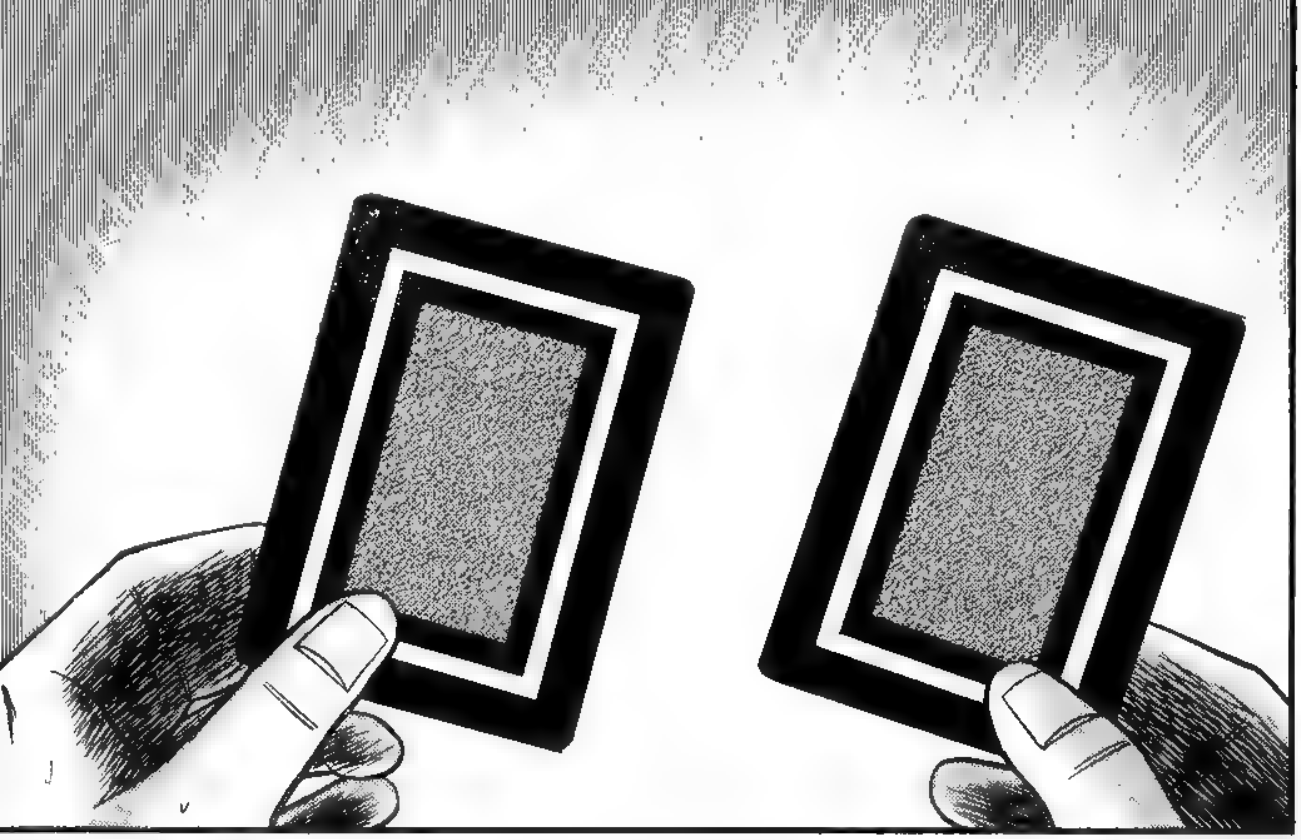

Hmph
…

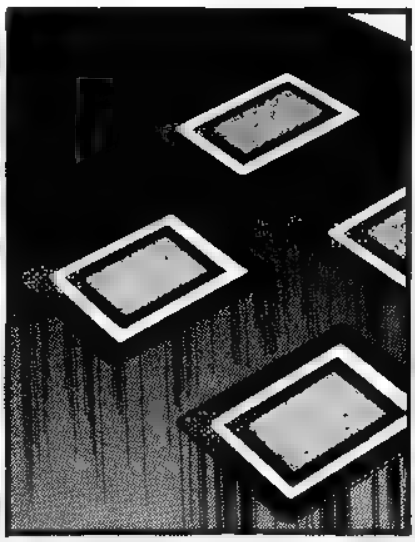
Hehehe
…
Hehehe
…

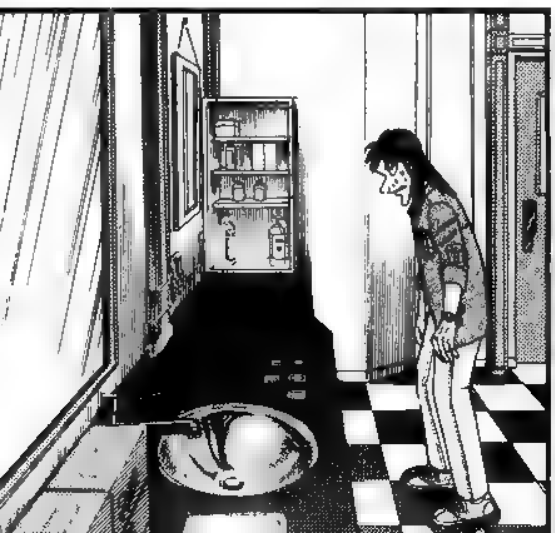


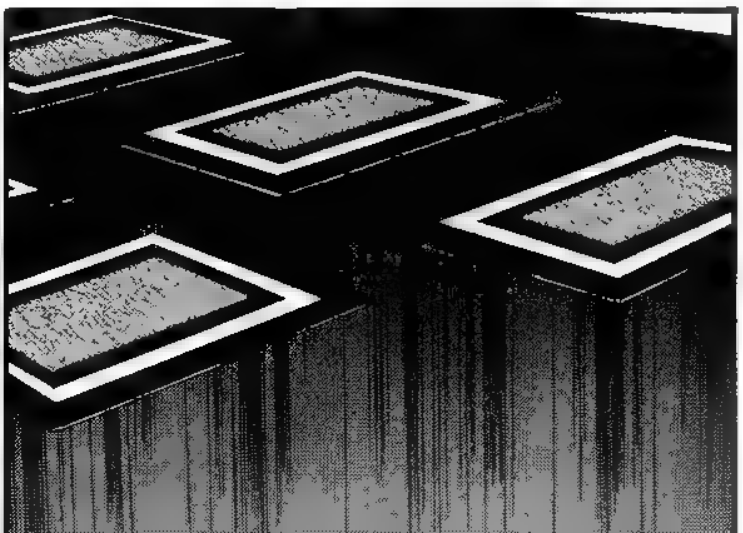




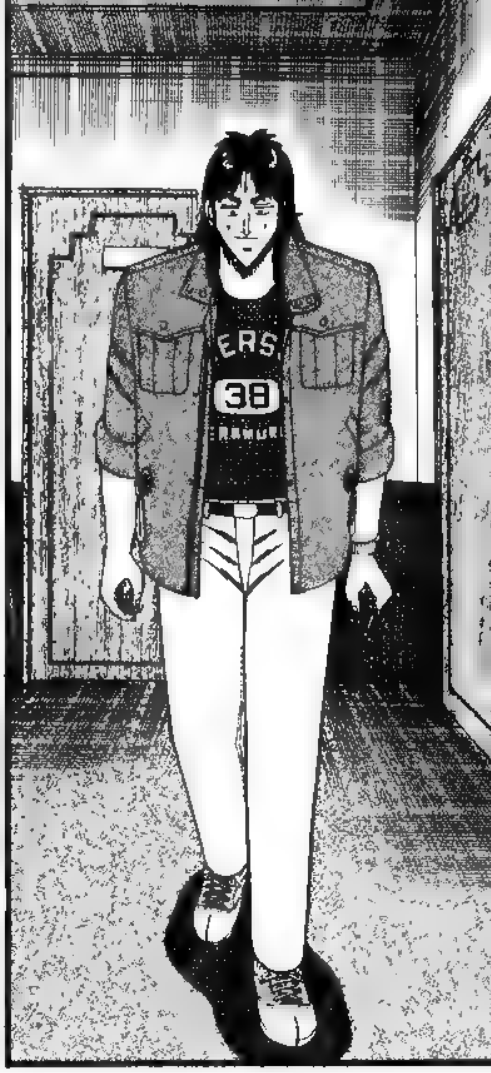








Hehe
...



Well
...?

.....

We
wouldn't
pull
such a
trick
...

Hehehe
.....

I assume
you were
unable
...
...
to find any
marks or
symbols on
the cards.

...
we have to
change hands
several times.
Remember
...

...
a serious match!
Without big money at stake on both sides, this really isn't...
...
you might use them against us instead.
If there were marks and you found them ...
Besides ...

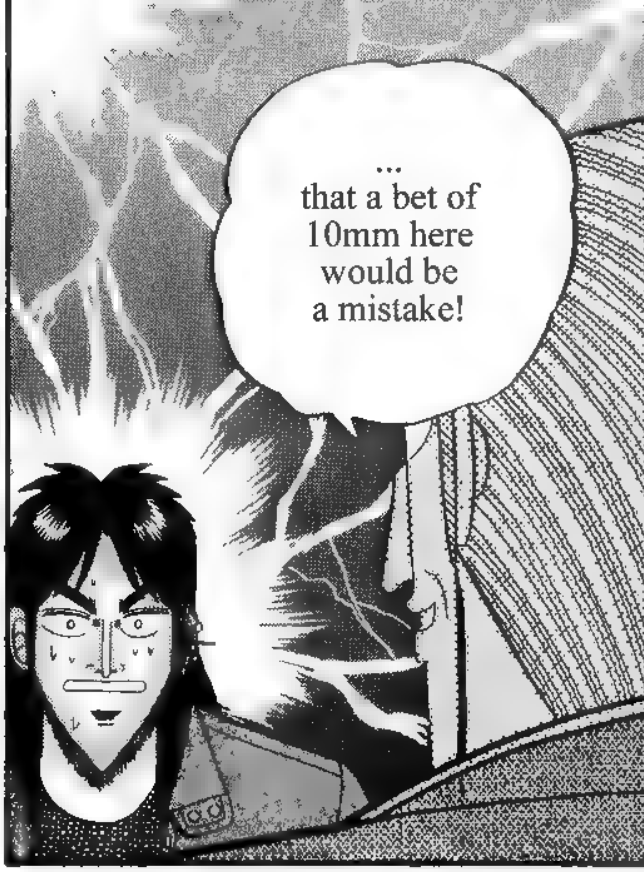
.....
...
this is all just for laughs!
...
but from our point of view ...
Of course it's different for you ...

...
in a little game of psychological warfare.
We only wanted to try matching wits with you...
FWIP
FWIP
Marking the cards would completely defeat that purpose.
.....

...
on the lookout for tricks.
Indeed, if anyone, it is our side which must be ...
GLANCE
Hmph ...
Hmph ...
.....
How much distance will you wager ...
... on your first match as Slave?
What is your next bet ...?
It's time to decide ...
Now ...
You can't back down now, can you ...?
After all, if you don't stick with 10mm you'll never reach that 20 million yen mark...
Knock it off ...!
Another 10 millimeters ...?
.....

If I had 3 wins in a row, maybe ...
I've already lost 10mm, and now the odds are against me with the Slave...
.....
Hmph ...
Hehehe
Hmm ...
How could you expect me to bet 10mm again ...!?
Hmph ...
Huh ...?
Marvelous!
We were both of the same opinion.
Namely ...
... the director and I were discussing your next bet.
The truth is, while you were in the bathroom, Kaiji-kun ...

Anyone who chose 10mm now ...
.....

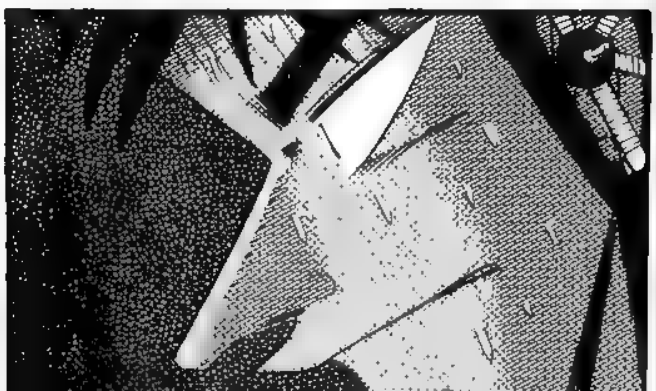

... that a bet of 10mm here would be a mistake!

Earlier I spoke of myself as a soldier ...
... would be letting their anger get the better of them.

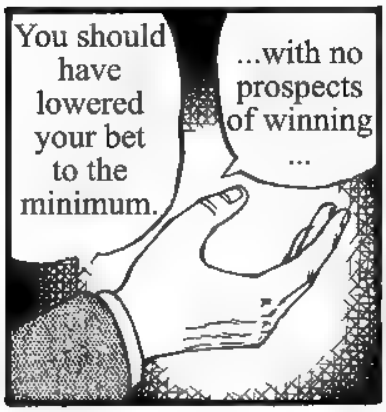
.....
How much will you bet ...?

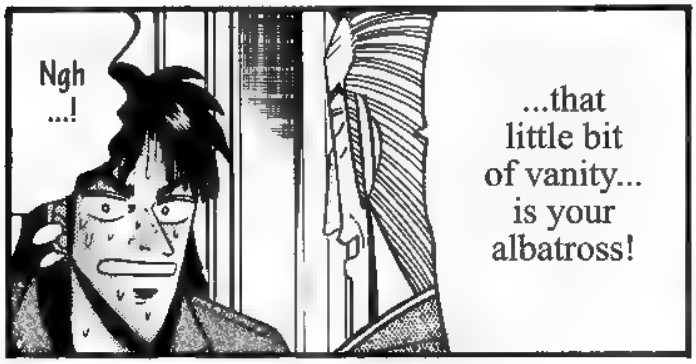
Now ...
... but a soldier must also know when to retreat.

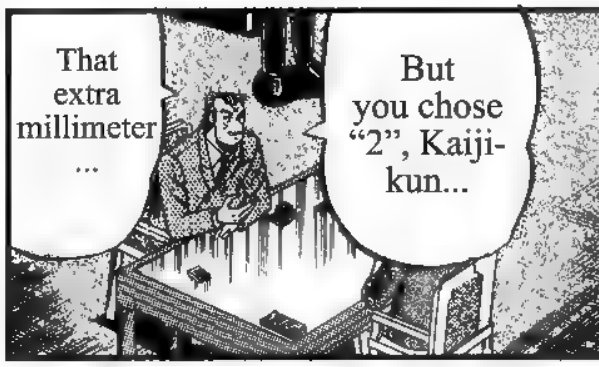
SLAVE!



2 millimeters ...!
Hehehe ...
Kaiji-kun ...
... but right now ...
Maybe you think I oughtta bet "5", or "8"...
... to "2."
From "10" ...
Hehehe
Shut up ...!
A real soldier ...
Huh ...?
It's the reverse!

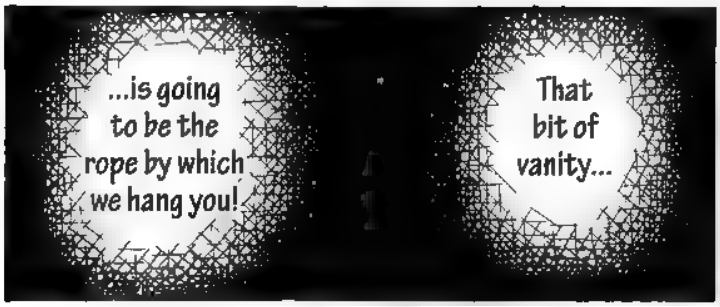


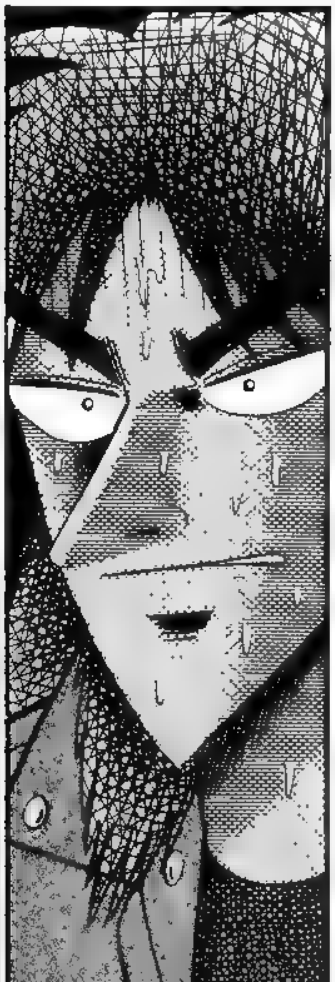




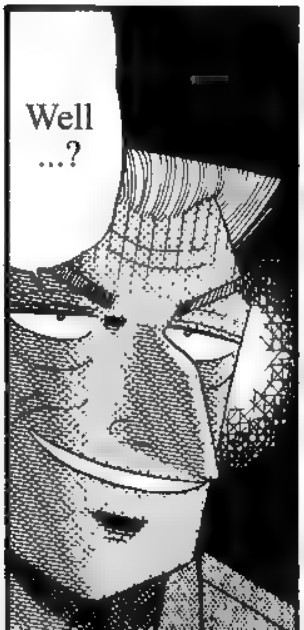
End of Chapter 102

Chapter 103: Hard Luck





It's your albatross ...!



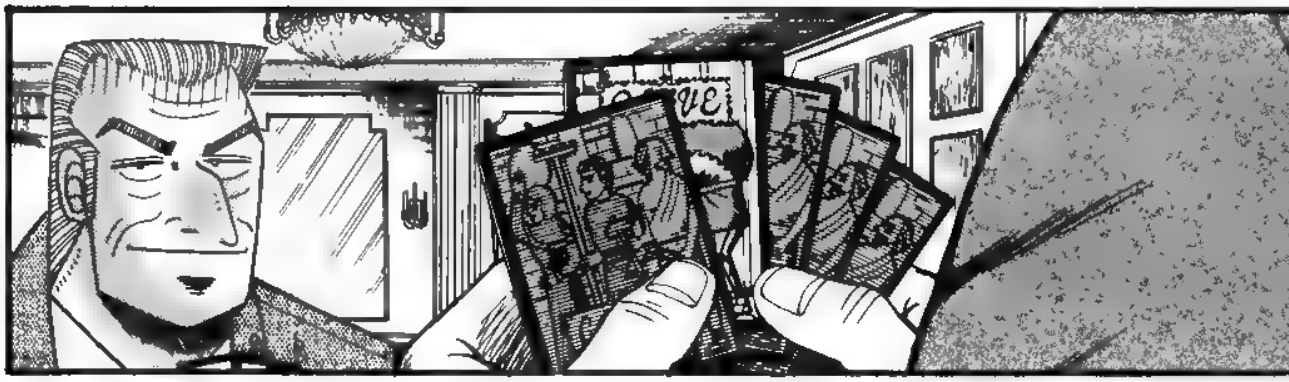
Get real ...!
...from 2mm to 1.
You may lower the distance of your bet...
...we'll make an exception, just this once!
If you'd like to change your bet...
I see...
Hehehe
Just leave it...!
...that bet is made!
Once a man makes a bet...
2
KAIJI
Emperor
Slave
Emperor
.....
... either way...
It's fine with us...
Slave
Oi ...!

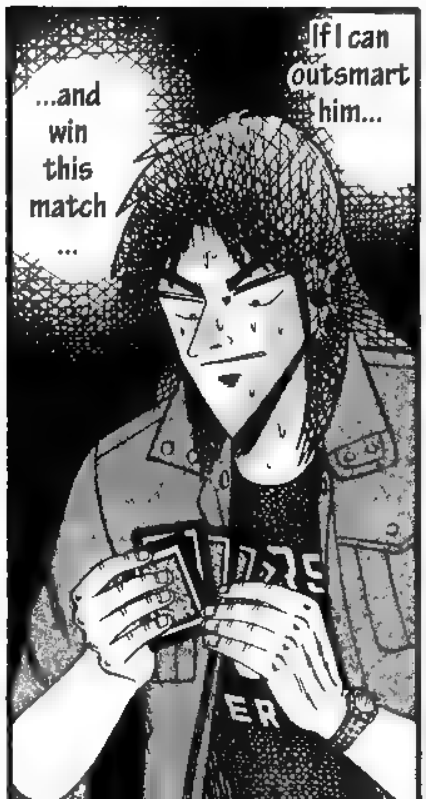
Win / Loss
Distance Bet
Total Distance
Emperor
Slave
10
10
10
2
0
0
10
Kaiji's wager was 2mm...!
Hmph ...
THWAP
Let's see...
Shall we begin ...?
Now then, time for the fourth match...!

This card should do...
FWIP
...Tonegawa set his first card!
The fourth match. Playing from the Emperor's side...
Hmph
.....

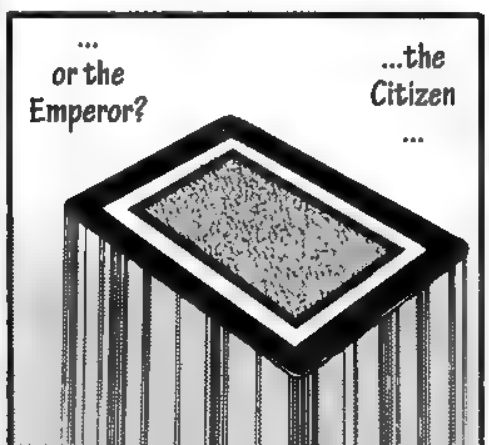
Kaiji ...!

Kaiji was next...!

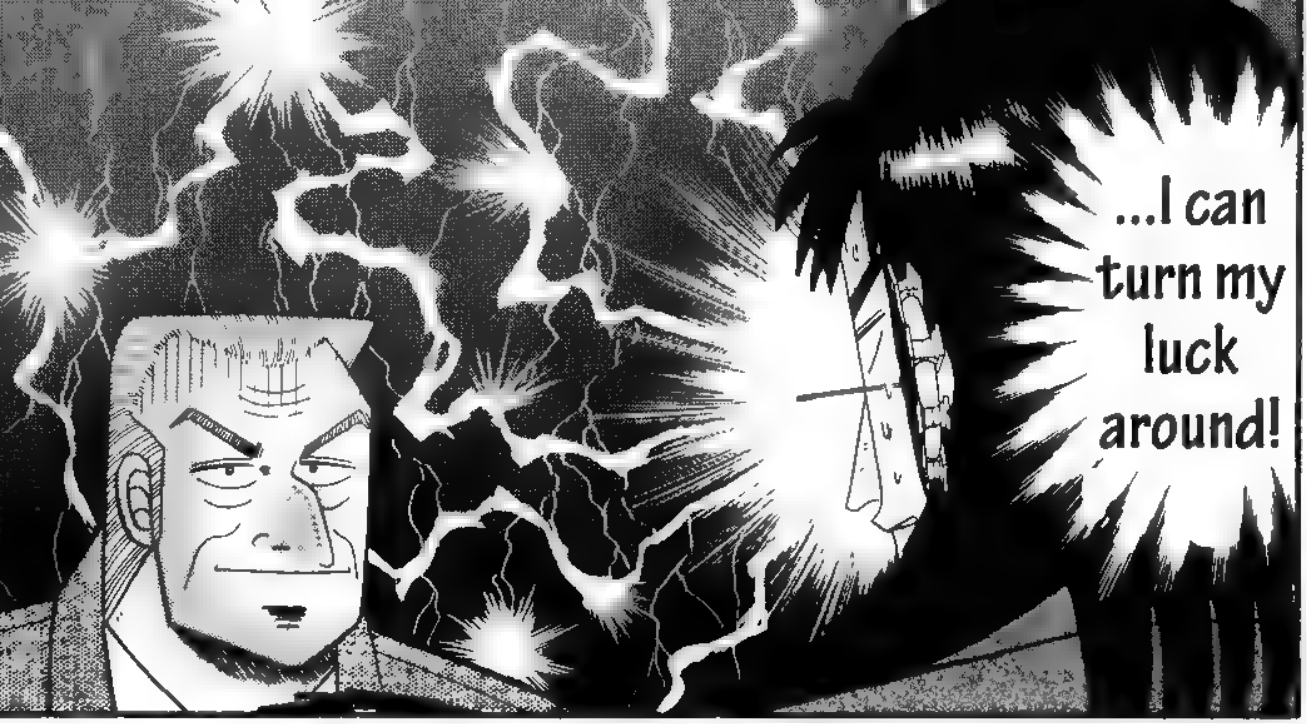



...and win this match ...
If I can outsmart him...

Did Tonegawa throw...


... or the Emperor?
...the Citizen ...

.....


...I can turn my luck around!

...Tonegawa has been toying with me.
Since I lost the third match to his mind games...

This is my chance ...!

I can't help but worry...
...it's hard not to let it get to me!
...that just maybe...

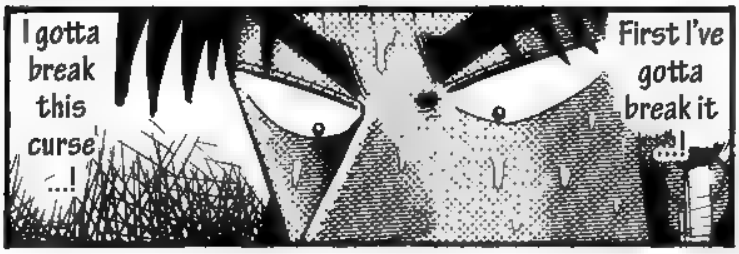
...that he can sense what I'm thinking...
...but when he says with so much confidence...

I know it's just a trick, a bluff...

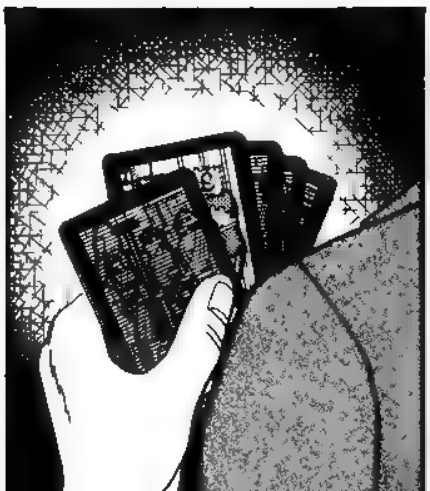
...he really can see through me!

What am I saying ...!?

Wait ...!


I gotta break this curse ...!
First I've gotta break it ...!

It's like he's got me under a curse ...!
This kind of thinking is all part of his plan...
Man ...!

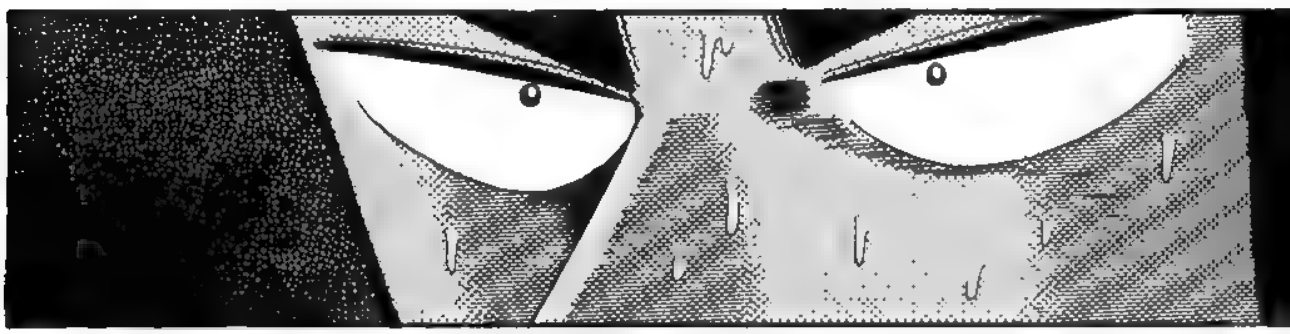


And to do that ...

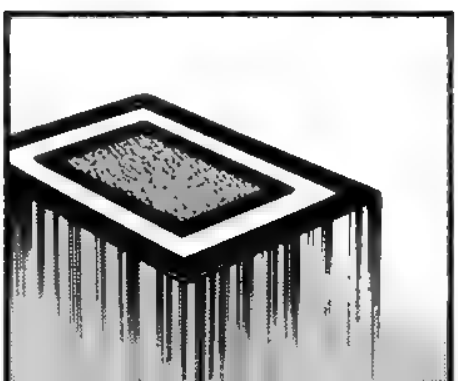
...I'm gonna have to win!
All of it...!
...but if I win all his boasting will become meaningless.
He can brag now...
Wait a sec ...!
He'll lose all his power ...!
The spell will be lifted ...

...is Tonegawa, not me!
...the one who can't afford to lose right now...
That means ...
After all that boasting ...
That's right...!
...he'd be absolutely disgraced!
If that happened ...
...while the odds are in his favor on the Emperor's side?
...how would it look if he lost...
...Tonegawa would never be forgiven!
If that happened in front of the director ...

...but this is no cake walk for Tonegawa either!
I may be in a tough spot here...
Now I see...!
...the director's trust in him would be shattered!
If he lost his game of psychological warfare against a small-fry like me...
It isn't ...!
He wants to win...!
...after all that boasting!
Especially if he lost now, in the fourth match...
He wants it more than anything...!



The Emperor ...?

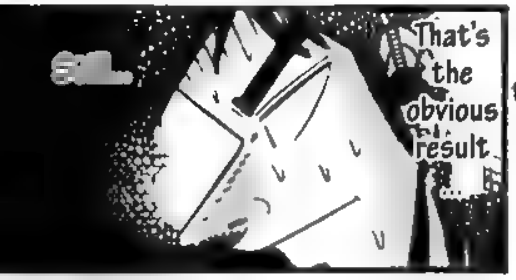


...just now...
Tonegawa was messing with me...
That's not likely ...
No ...
He was goading me along...
Trying to get my back up, get me into a state...
...who put me on the offense!
He's the one...
...and start off by throwing the Slave...
...getting me so riled up that I might go on the attack on the first trick...
There's no way he'd risk slipping out the Emperor now...!
That means it's too dangerous.

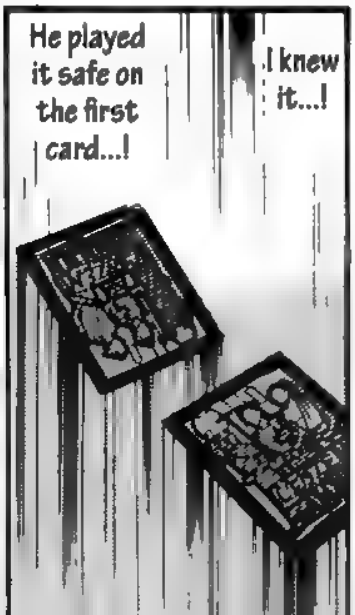
There's no way he'll take any unnecessary risks...!
It's gotta be Citizen ...
He'll play it safe first...!
.....
Hmph ...

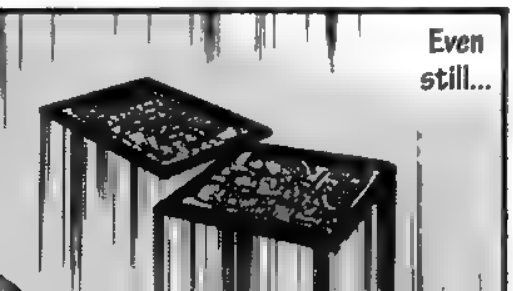
Citizen ...!
It's Citizen ...!
Play ...!
Kaiji set his card ...!
FWAP

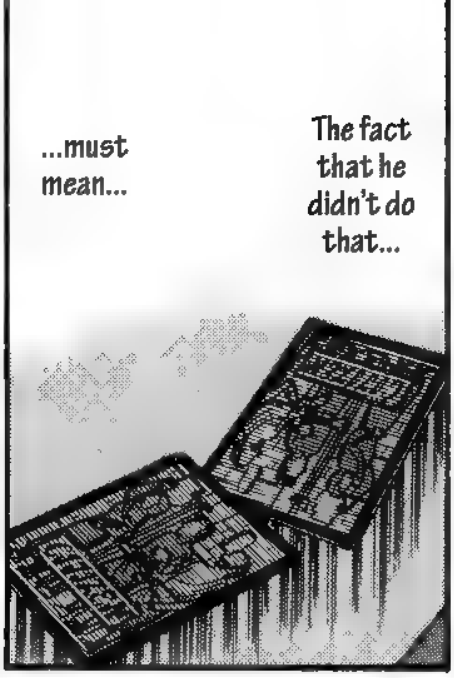
Citizen ...!
Citizen ...!
Citizen ...!
FWAP

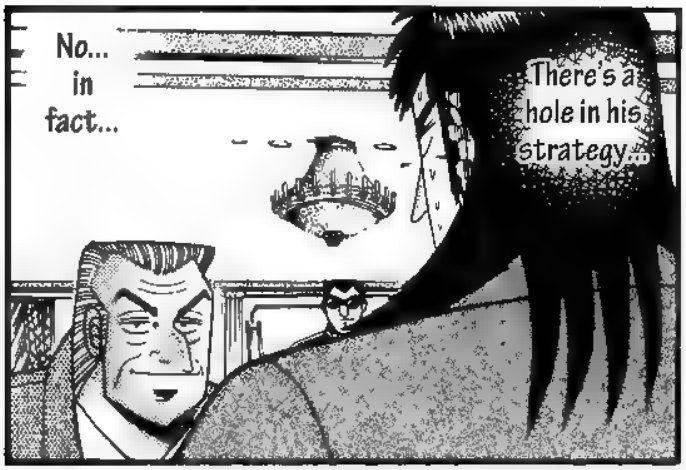


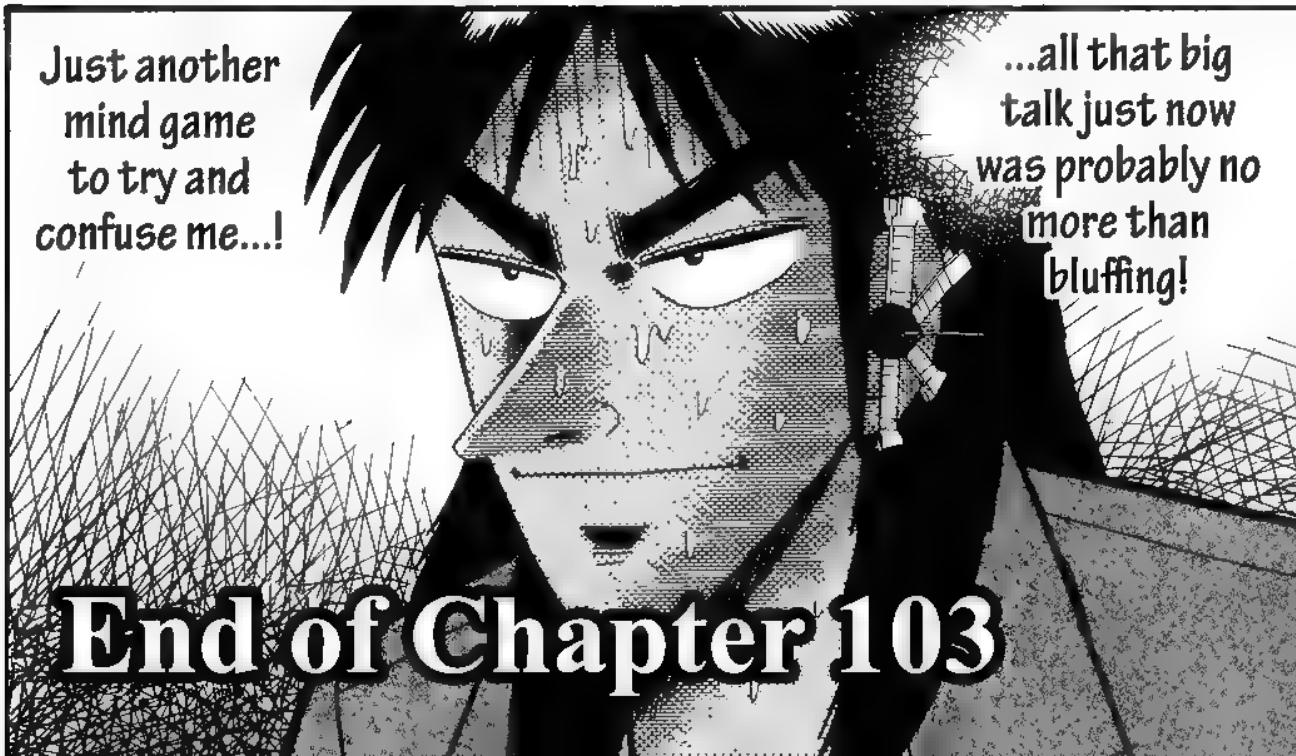
Just as I thought ...







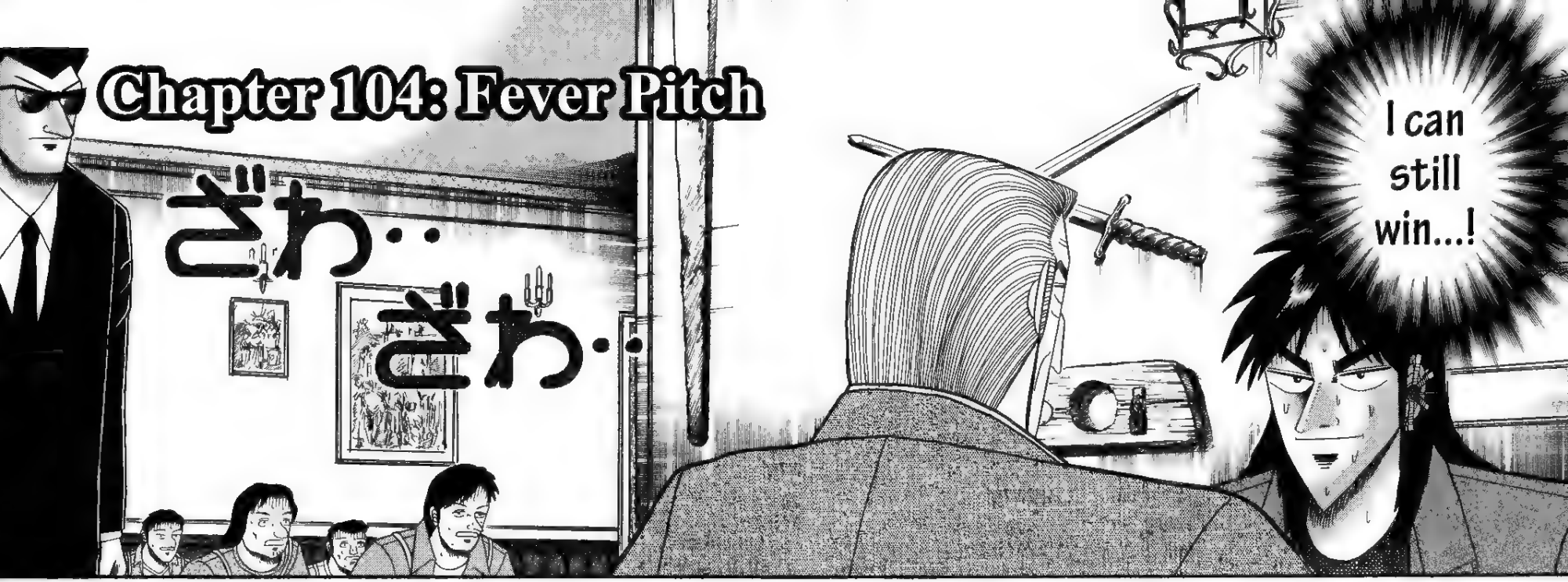


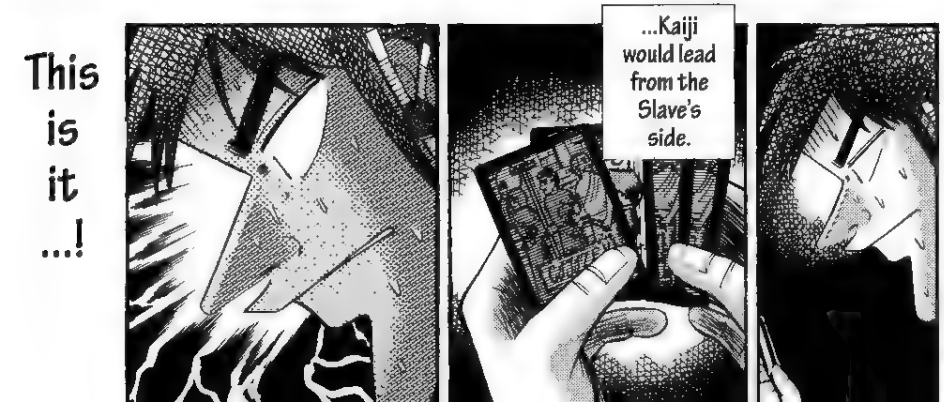


End of Chapter 103

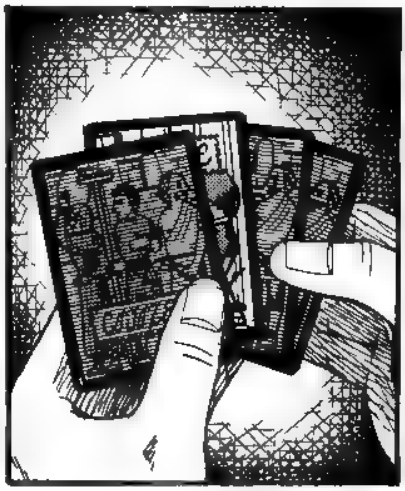
He's bluffing...!
That's Tonegawa's specialty... bluffing...!
I can still do this...!

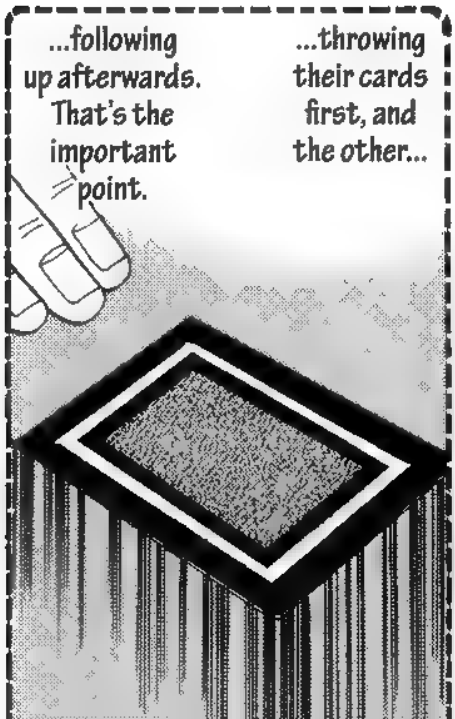
Chapter 104: Fever Pitch

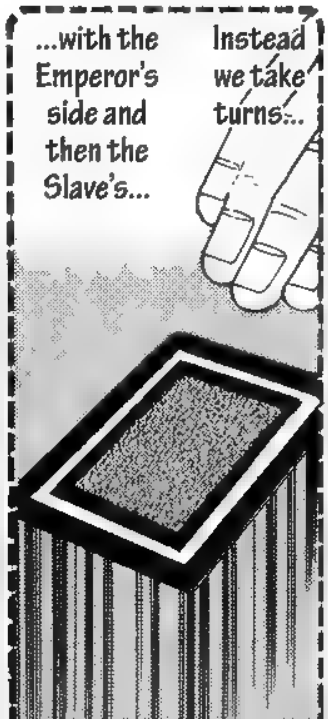




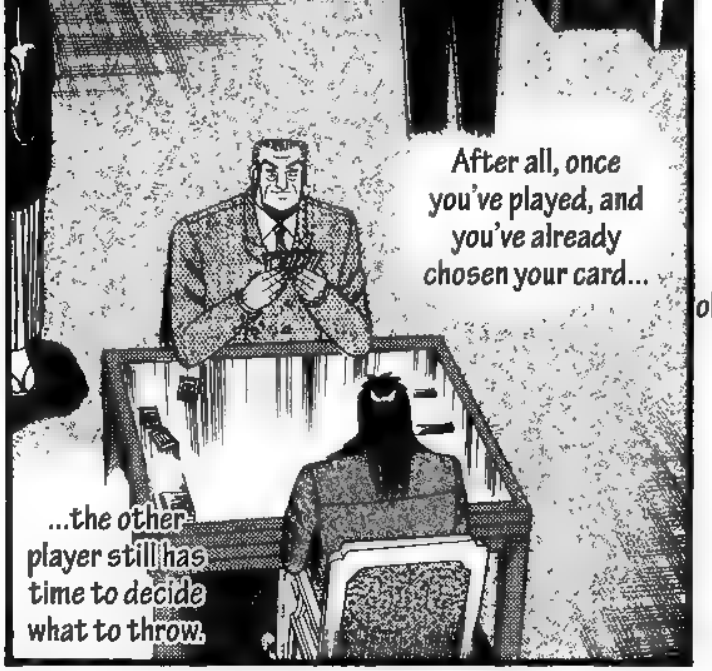
This is the first hurdle ...



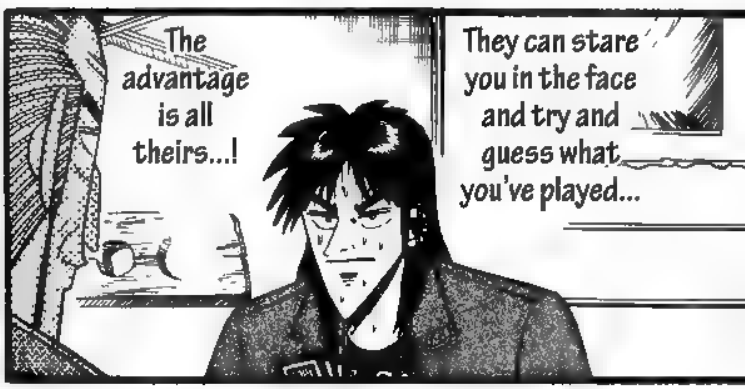




.....
..psychological warfare!
That's what makes it...
Hehehe ...
For the most part
.....
...are difficult to play!
...and the Slave on the Slave's side...
...meaning the Emperor on the Emperor's side...
..the key cards...
When it's your turn to lay down first...

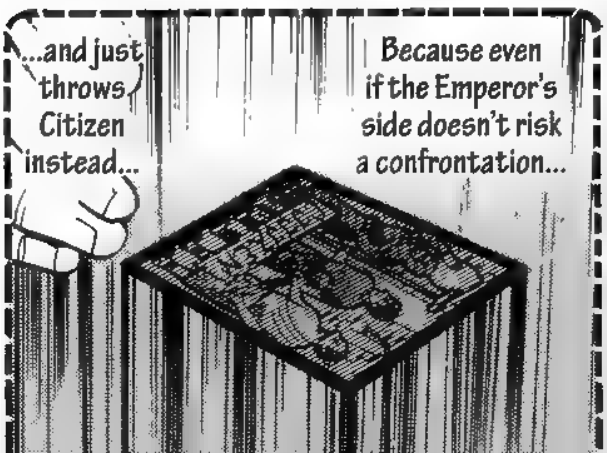

After all, once you've played, and you've already chosen your card...
...the other player still has time to decide what to throw.

It's obvious ...!
.....


The advantage is all theirs...!
They can stare you in the face and try and guess what you've played...

...to throw your key card!
...you wouldn't want...

When you're at a disadvantage like that...
That's right...!


...and just throws Citizen instead...
Because even if the Emperor's side doesn't risk a confrontation...

...on the Emperor's side!
Especially ...

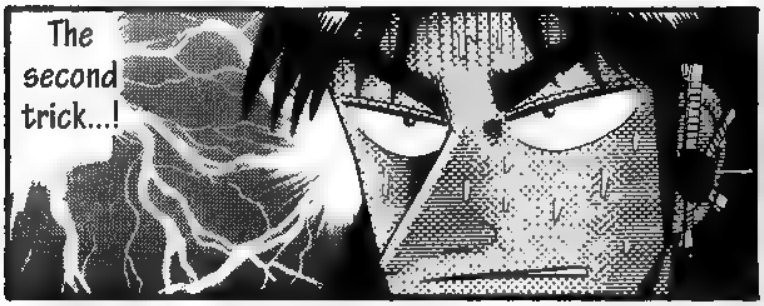
So there's no reason to do anything risky...!
The chance is there...!
...he'll just be taking himself out.
...should the other side go ahead and throw Slave...
It's too dangerous ...!
...he won't wanna play Emperor.
...that on the first and third trick, when the Emperor's side leads...
And that means...
Hmm ...?
What's wrong ...?
So if we look at it from the Slave's side...
It's too early for that...
This won't do...
SLIIIDE
We're just starting out and already you have to think so much...?
Hehehe ...

Hurry up and decide ...!
All this speculation is useless, kid...!
PHEW
The hardest part is still to come...
I tell you, I feel sorry for you ...
Hehehe...
Hehehehe ...
Hehehe ...
Kaiji set his card ...!
FWIP

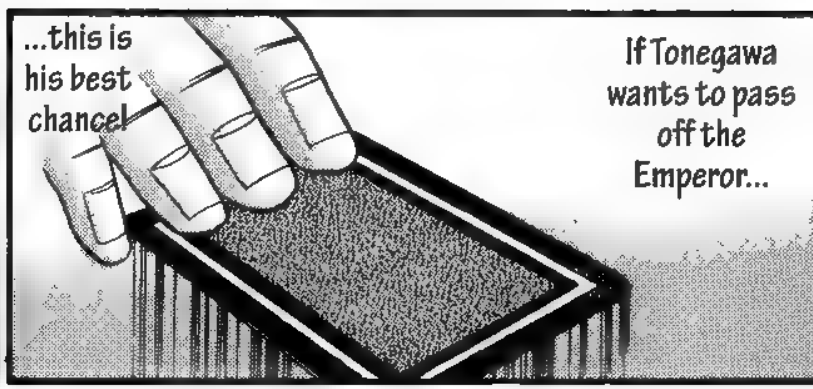
There we go.
Hmph ...
Kaiji's choice ...
The second trick.
FWIP
Finally decided, did you ...?
Hmph ...
.....
...was the Slave!
...I wonder what card you chose?
...after all that deliberation ...
Now then ...

Hehehe
...

This is a tough one...
Hehehe
...

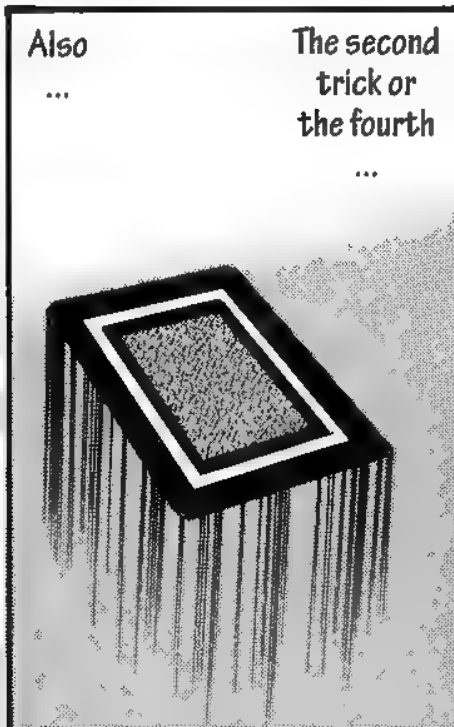

The second trick...!

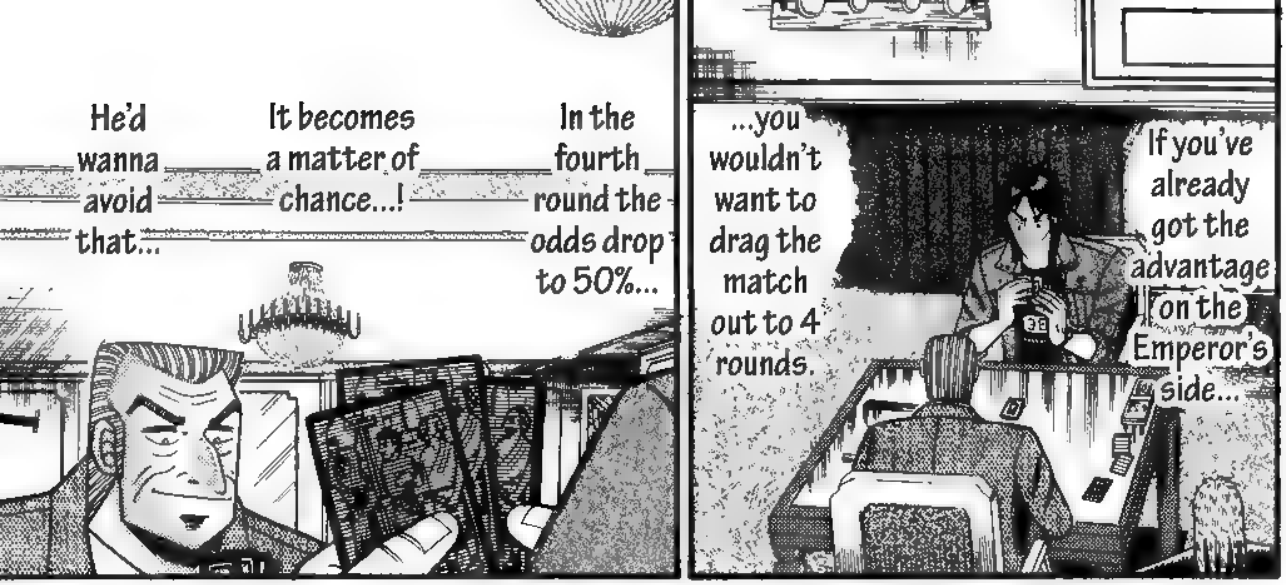
...when his side is playing second...
It's safest to throw the Emperor...

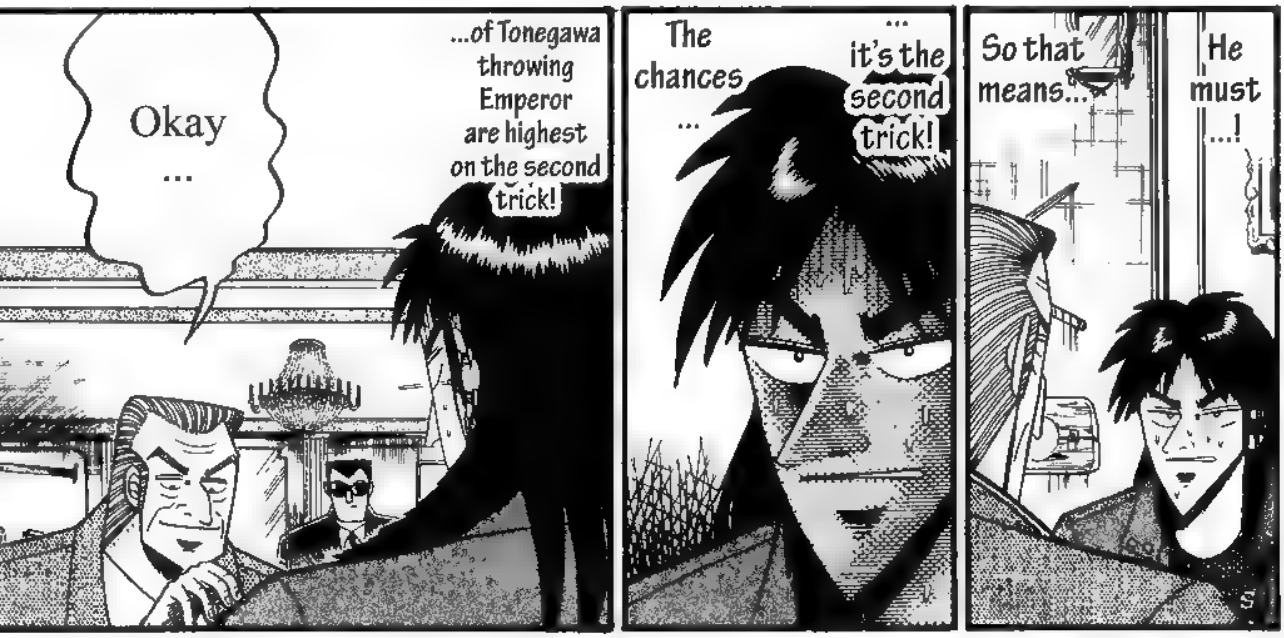

...this is his best chance!
If Tonegawa wants to pass off the Emperor...

It's the only possibility ...!
...is the second!

...
then the obvious choice...
...if he has to pick from one or the other...

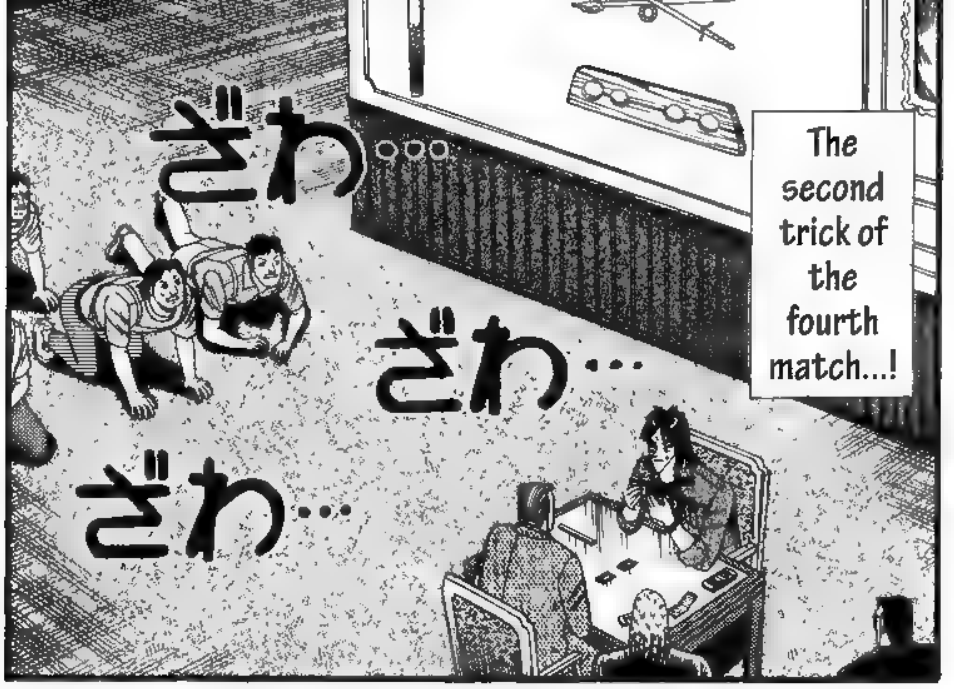

Also
...
The second trick or the fourth
...


He'd wanna avoid that...
It becomes a matter of chance...!
In the fourth round the odds drop to 50%...
...you wouldn't want to drag the match out to 4 rounds.
If you've already got the advantage on the Emperor's side...


Okay ...
...of Tonegawa throwing Emperor are highest on the second trick!
The chances ...
... it's the second trick!
So that means...
He must ...!

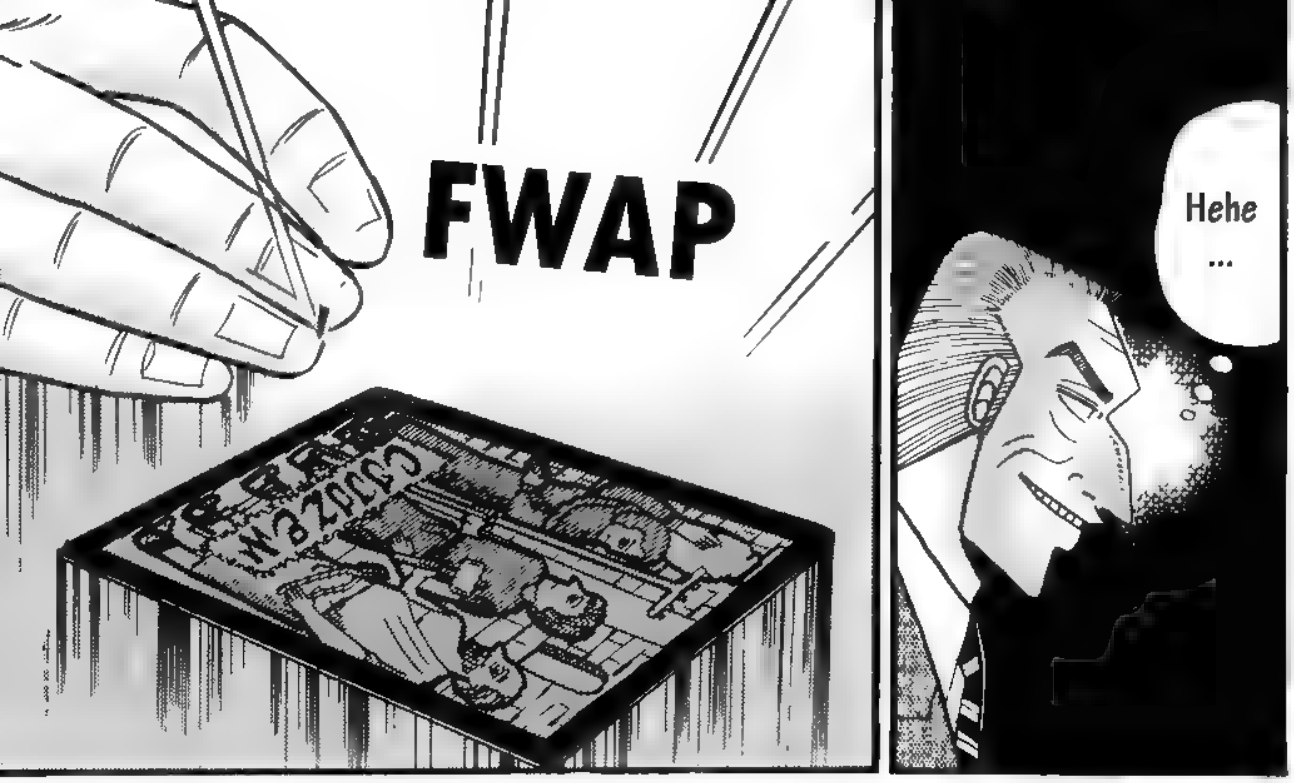
Tonegawa set his card...!
FWIP
... I've got it.
... but ...
This is a tough one ...

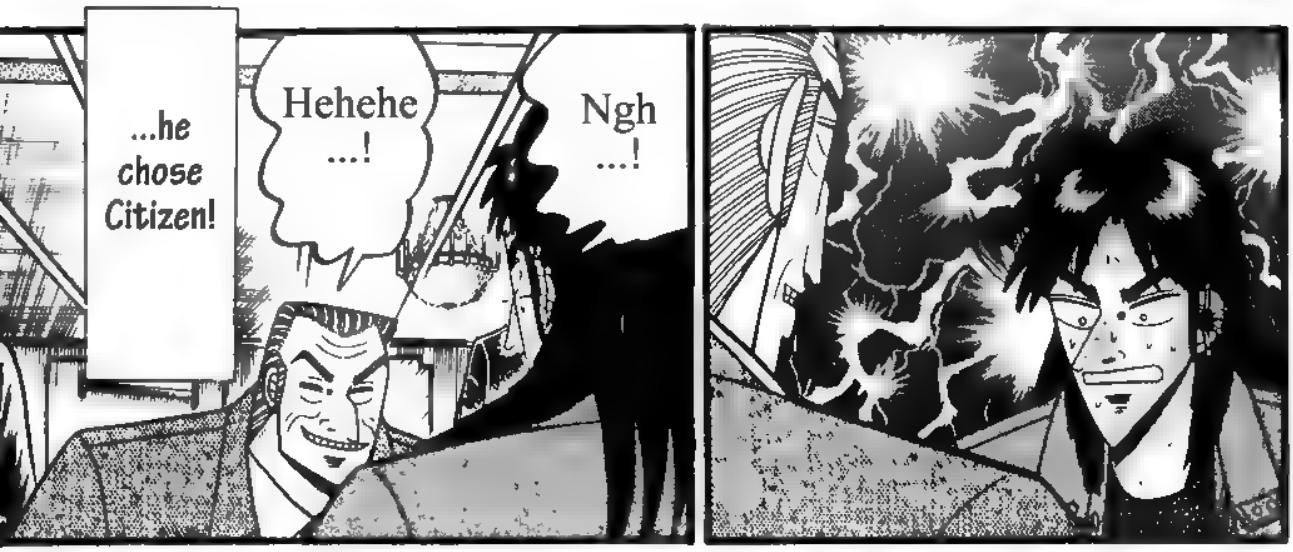
Play...!


ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
The second trick of the fourth match...!

Kaiji chose ...
……
ざわ…

Tonegawa ...
……
...the Slave!
SLAVE
FWAP


FWAP
Hehe
...


...he chose Citizen!
Hehehe ...!
Ngh ...!

Now then ...
CLOMP
I don't even have to make a move and you just roll over.
You're making this too easy.
.....
Hehehe ...
It was Tonegawa's win...!

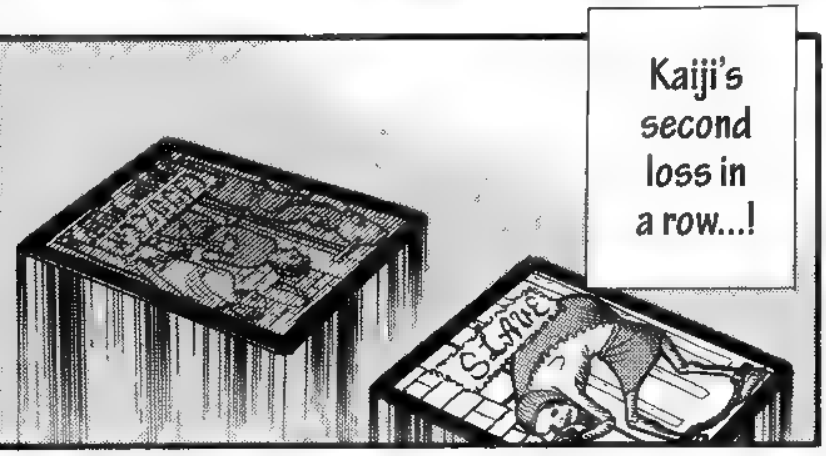
WHRRRRR∞
GO ...!
BEEP
RRRRRRRRRR...

Hehehe ...
Hehehe ...

ざわ…

The needle advanced 2mm.
Ngh ...!

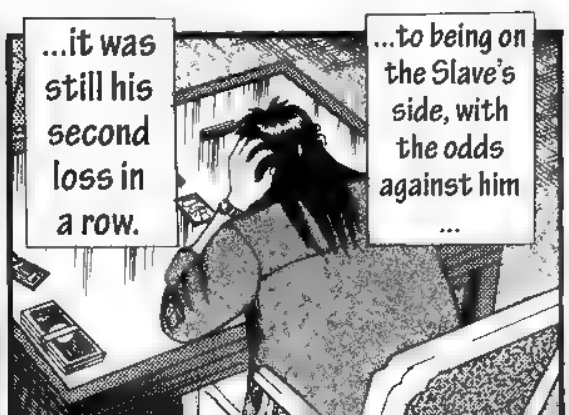
ざわ・・・
2
4
11


Kaiji's second loss in a row...!

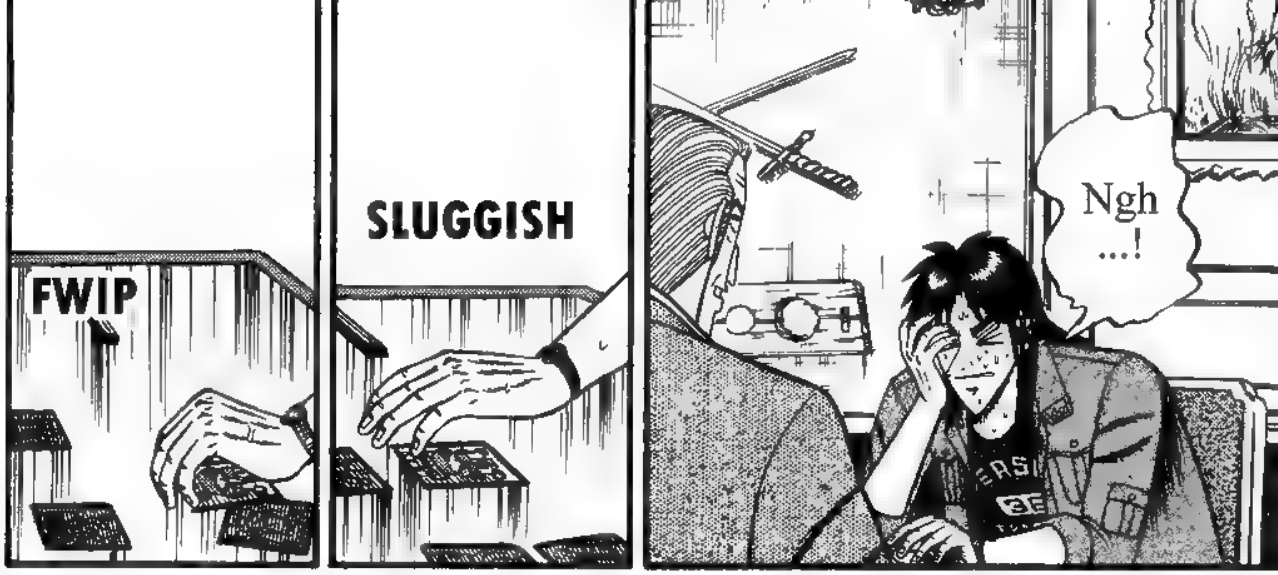
ざわ

His luck remained unchanged ...!
.....

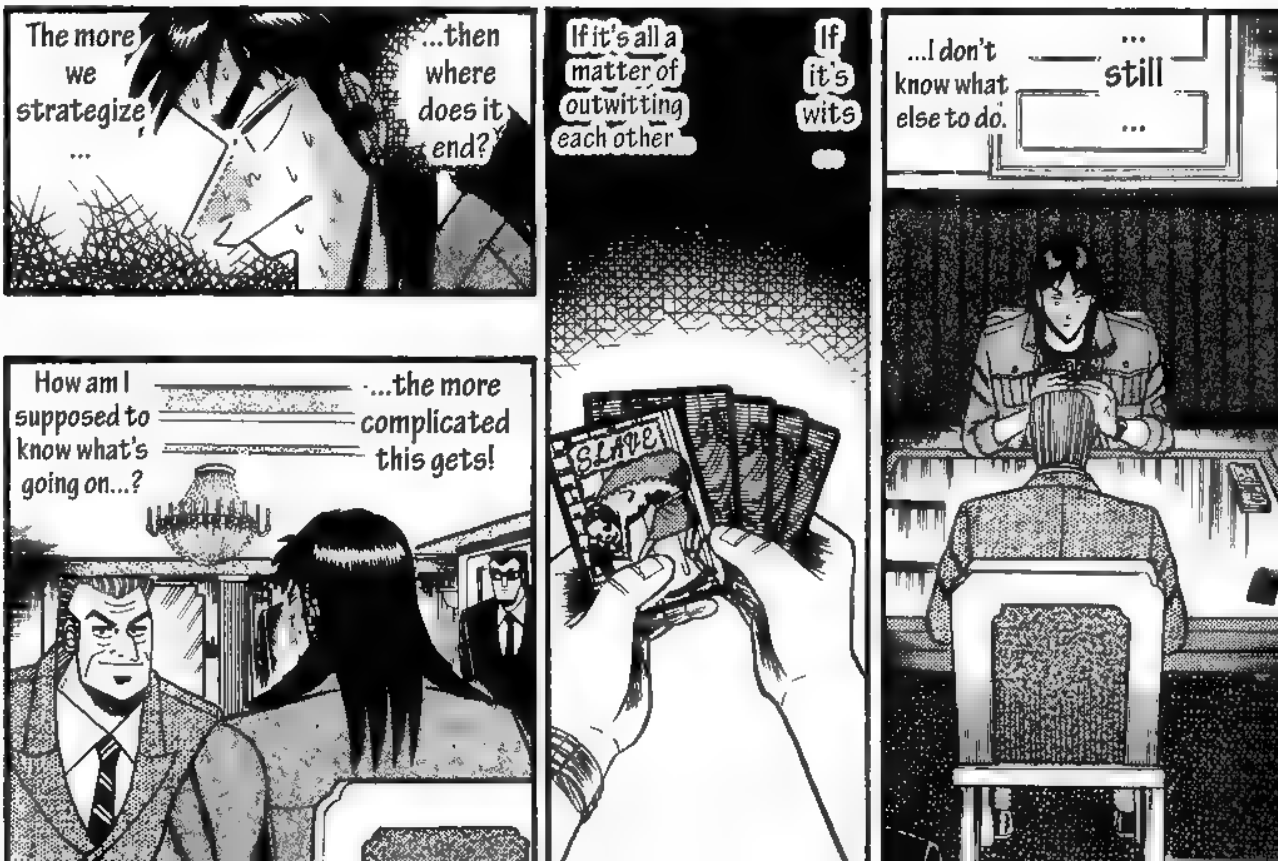
ror
SI
SQUEAK
Even if he chalked this loss up...


...it was still his second loss in a row.
...to being on the Slave's side, with the odds against him ...

Emperor
Slave


FWIP
SLUGGISH
Ngh ...!

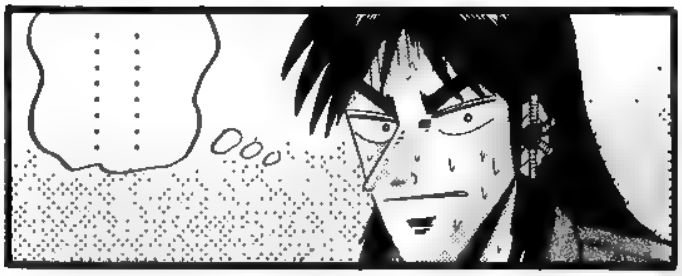
But ...
He didn't play it on the second trick.
...I was wrong!
I guess ...
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

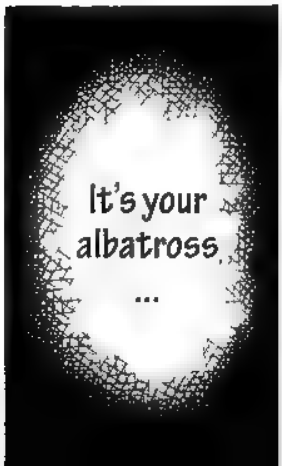

The more we strategize ...
...then where does it end?
If it's all a matter of outwitting each other
If it's wits
...I don't know what else to do.
... still ...
How am I supposed to know what's going on...?
...the more complicated this gets!
SLAVE

What am I supposed to do...?
Man ...!
...so where do I get my foot in?
The game is a three-way standoff...
How am I supposed to fight him...?
.....
...then how do I fight?
SLAVE
If there's no clear strategy in this game...
Right now I've got absolutely no plan...!
Some kind of compass ...!
...in order to win.
I need to know which way to go...
A way in ...!
Something ...
I need a plan ...

Drifting in a sea of cards...with no land in sight...!
I'm just drifting ...!
End of Chapter 104

Chapter 105: Conversation





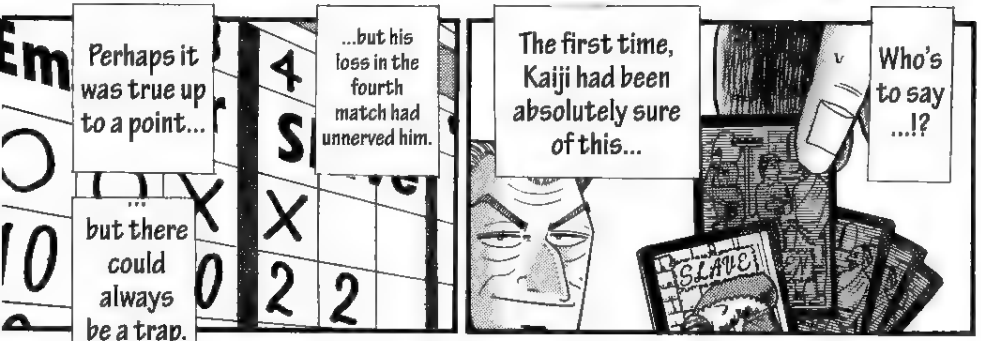
I don't know what to do!!

That extra millimeter ...
Not "2" but "1" ...
...with no prospects of winning. You should have lowered your bet to the minimum.
You're down on your luck...
...is your albatross!
...that little bit of vanity ...
Hehehe ...
2...!
2 millimeters ...!
But Kaiji-kun...
Shut up ...!
Mind your business ...!
Are you sure you wanna bet "2"...?

You should listen to others...
How stubborn you are.
My, my...
Hehehe...
Will it...!?
It won't matter if I win...!
I'd have to be crazy...
Get real...!
.....
Hehehe...
...when they offer you advice out of the kindness of their hearts.
If I let Tonegawa...
...of disliking the guy.
It's not just a matter...
...to listen to his advice!
I'm the one in the driver's seat...!
I have to make my own decision...!
...eventually I'll wind up playing right into his hand!
...take me in like this...

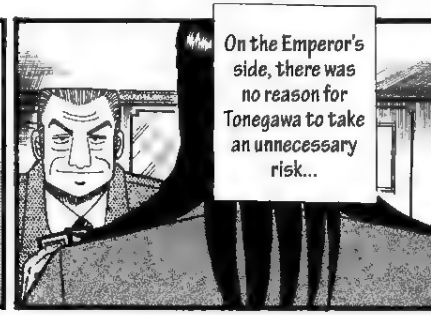
...
and stick with 2mm!
I've gotta hold fast...
And I say 2mm ...!
Slave
X X
10 2 2
10 12
Hmph ...
I can't drop my bet...!
Tonegawa, on the Emperor's side...
FWIP
The fifth match.
The same deliberations ...
...it all begins anew.
.....
On that cue...
... chooses his first card.
The same hypotheses ...

...repeat themselves once more!
The same thought process as the fourth match...
SLAVE


Perhaps it was true up to a point...
...but his loss in the fourth match had unnerved him.
...but there could always be a trap.

The first time, Kaiji had been absolutely sure of this...
Who's to say ...!?
SLAVE

That means he should play...
...and force a confrontation in the first trick.


On the Emperor's side, there was no reason for Tonegawa to take an unnecessary risk...

He couldn't help asking, "what if?"...
...his conviction began to ebb...

Full of doubt and misgivings ...
...he could no longer stop himself.
SLAVE

...to think this way...
Once Kaiji had begun ...

However ...
Ngh ...!

SLAVE

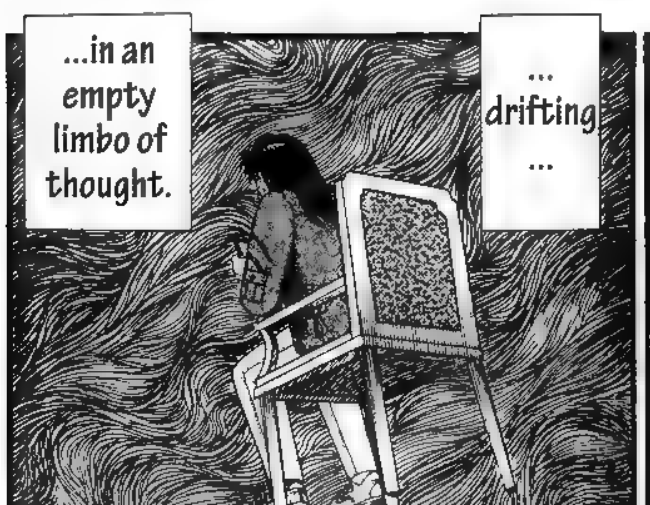
...the Citizen!

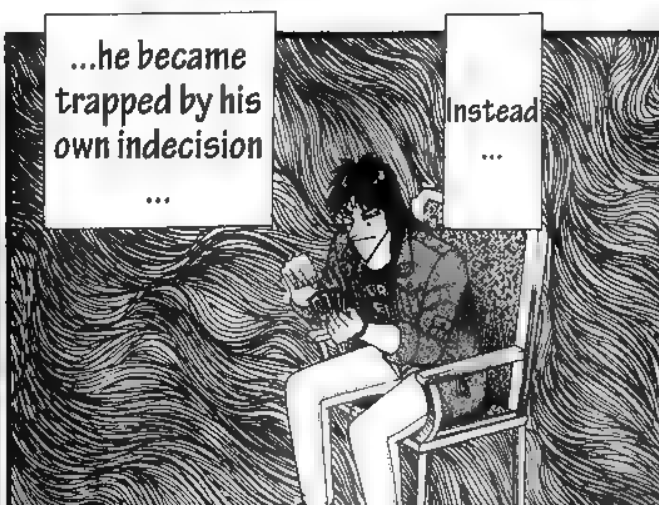
Ngh ...!
SLAVE
.....
.....

Kaiji ...

No opportunity ...
No base from which to build his strategy.
No wedge to drive home.

There was no ground left for him to stand on...
...was no longer sure of anything.
SLAVE


...in an empty limbo of thought.
... drifting ...

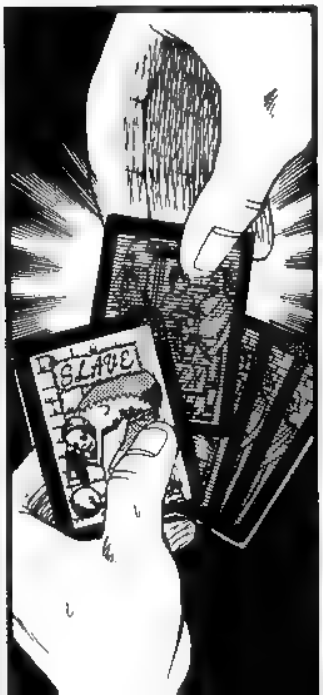

...he became trapped by his own indecision ...
Instead ...

...
rudderless
and confused!
Suspended
...

Should
I play
the Slave
...!?

Ngh
...!

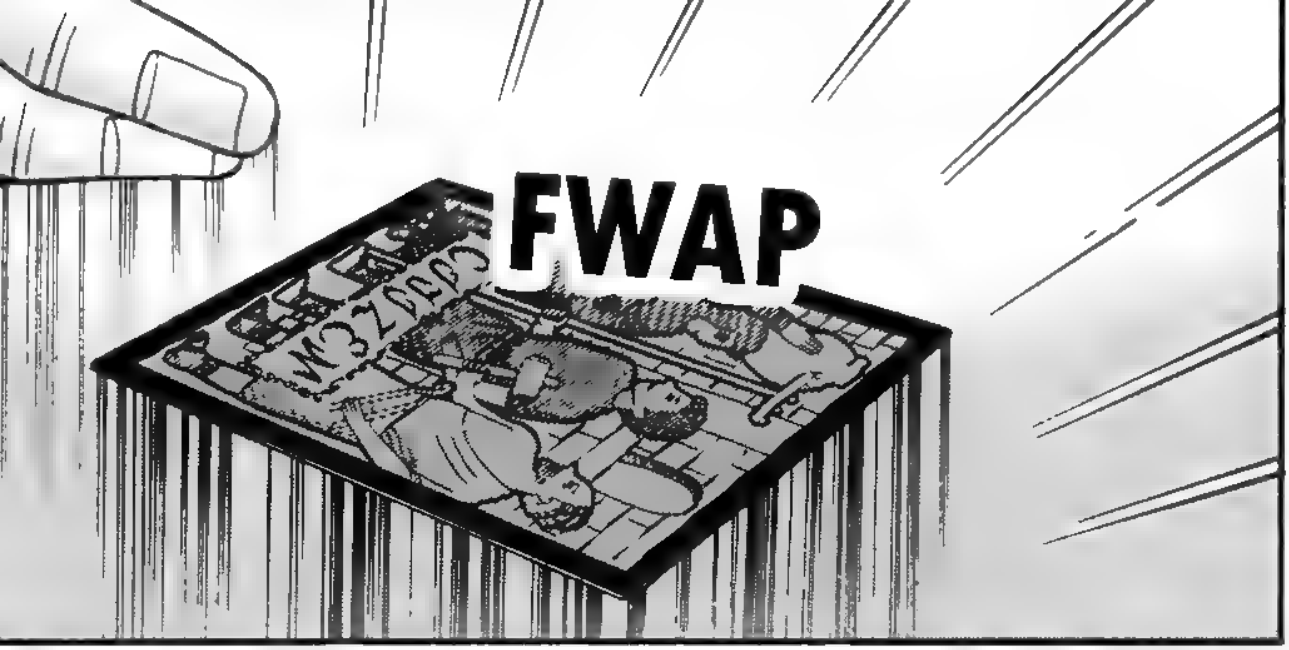
Kaiji
...
Ngh
...!



I
can't
...!
It's too
dangerous
...!

No
...!

...set Citizen!
Play ...!
FWAP
ER
38

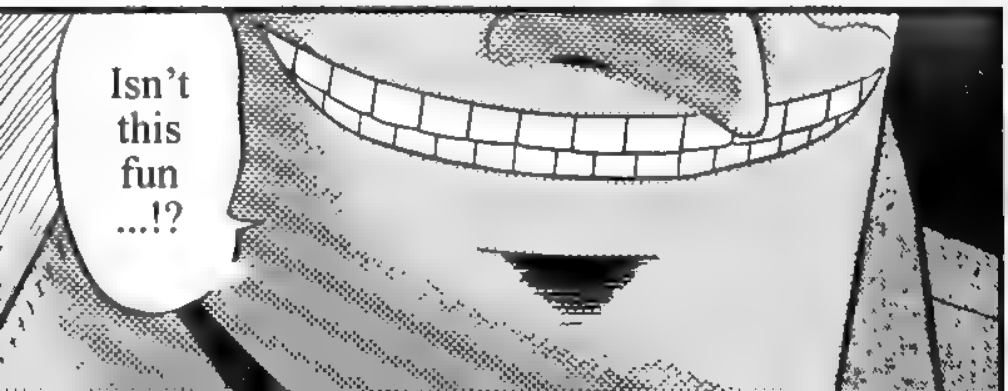

FWAP

Tonegawa played Citizen as well...!

Well, Kaiji-kun...?

Hehehe...
Phew...
.....

The first trick was a draw.


Isn't this fun ...!?

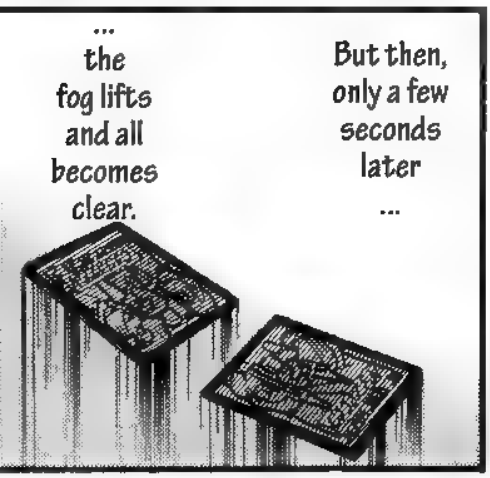
Have you ever experienced this before ...?
Huh ...?
This is a true conversation ...!
...to uncover the truth inside another's mind!?
...and determined ...
Being so desperate ...
... is to keep up with, and to intercept...
The objective of Emperor ...
...this truth.
Indeed.
The truth ...?

...to an everyday conversation with your friends...
Compare this kind of conversation, with its purity and its truth...
...a true meeting of the minds.
It is a conversation with no impediments ...
Lies, all lies ...!
But it's all a silly game...
...or opening up about yourself ...
Perhaps you're talking about what troubles you...
Fleeting words, said in the moment. Nothing more...
...it's all just pretend ...
In other words ...
.....
Without speaking a single word...
This game is a matter of psychological warfare...!
...is a different story.
Emperor, however ...

... and picking out the truth.
Deadly serious about peering into each others' minds ...
... we are deadly serious!
... to join with another ...
...in direct conversation.
... overcome the hurdles of nationality, age, income, gender...
Only in gambling can one so easily ...
.....
... is especially true of a psychological game such as Emperor!
And that ...
It is the universal language ...!
It doesn't bore you, does it ...?
This overwhelming intensity
Hehehe
.....

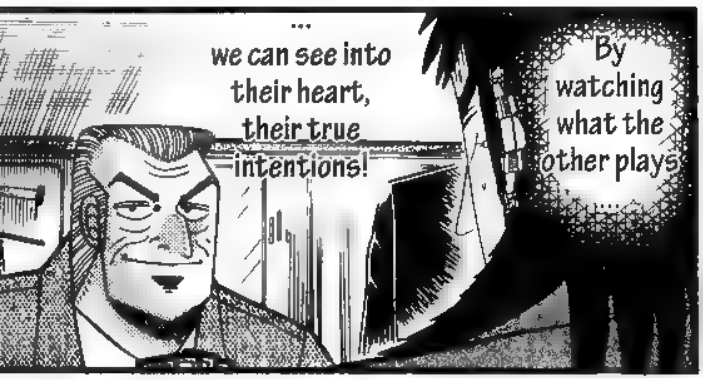
This conversation of ours surely requires every ounce of your diligence.
So I imagine ...
And of course, you are gambling with your ability to hear.
...a conversation free of impediments.
It's not every day that you get to experience ...
... most intriguing, Kaiji-kun!
... that you find Emperor ...
The true meaning...the unbridled joy of gambling!
Can't you taste it ...!?

A true conversation ...


...
the fog lifts and all becomes clear.
But then, only a few seconds later ...

Try as we might, we can't see into the other's mind ...
Playing Emperor is like being wrapped in a deep fog ...
SLAVE

It is a conversation ...!
He's right ...

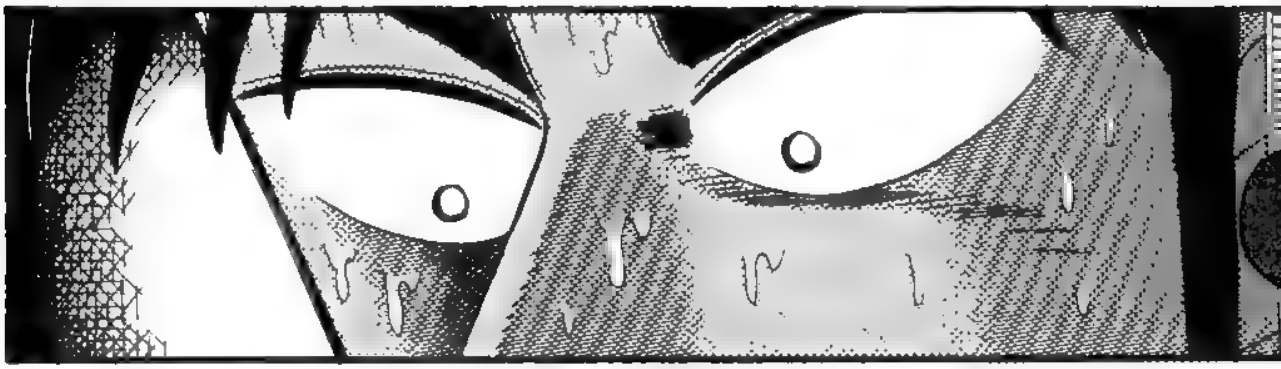

...
we can see into their heart, their true intentions!
By watching what the other plays ...

A conversation of truth ...!
It's a game of confessions ...

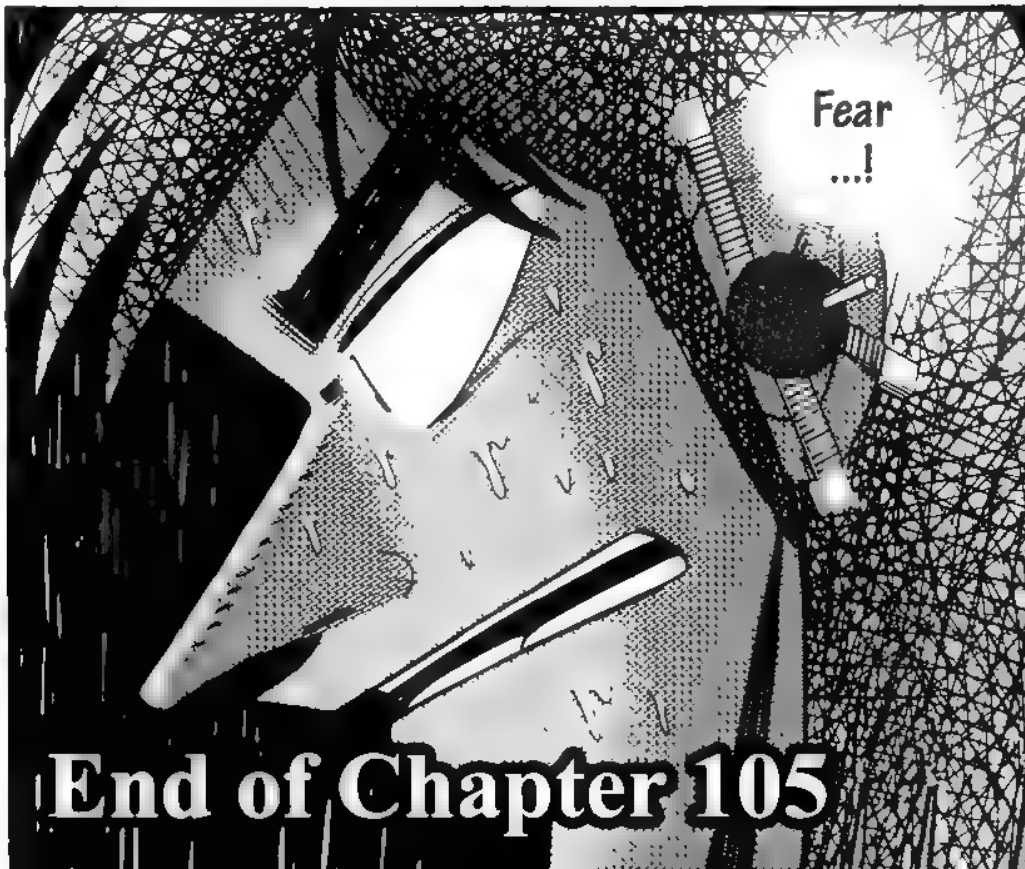
...
or caution... courage... or hope, or fear...
... hesitation ...

Whether it be ...

Fear ...!?



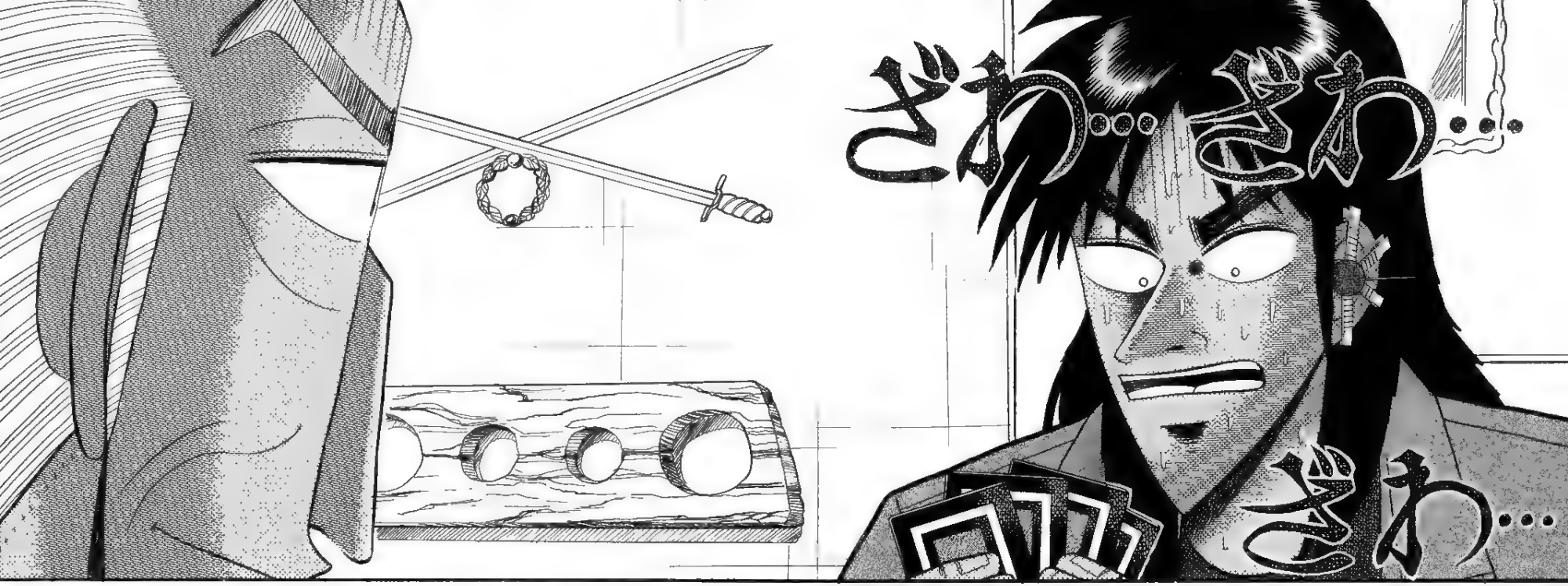
That's it ...! "Fear" ...!

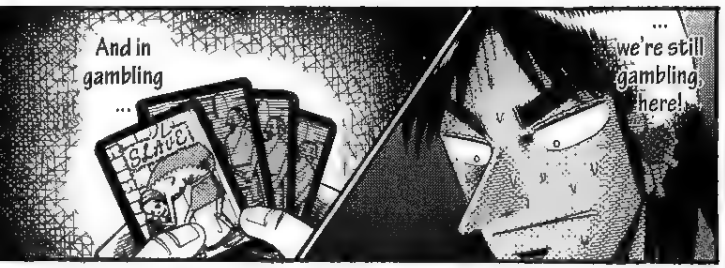


Fear ...!

End of Chapter 105

Chapter 106: Flash of Light





Fear ...!

... is the element of "fear."

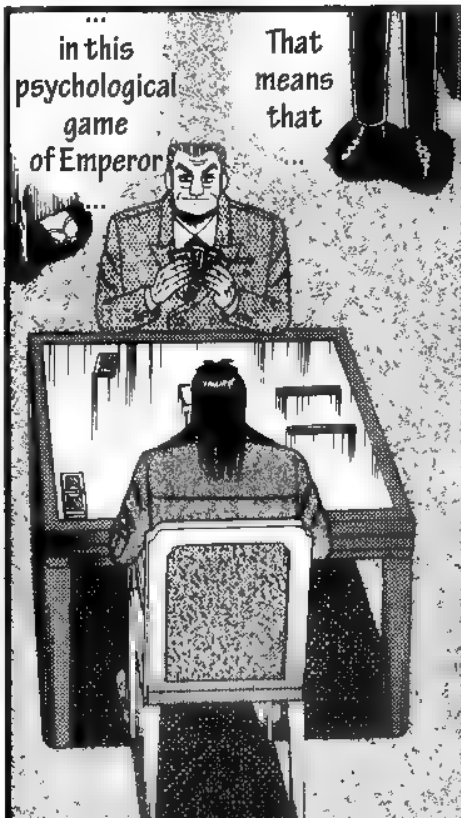
He must be afraid too...!

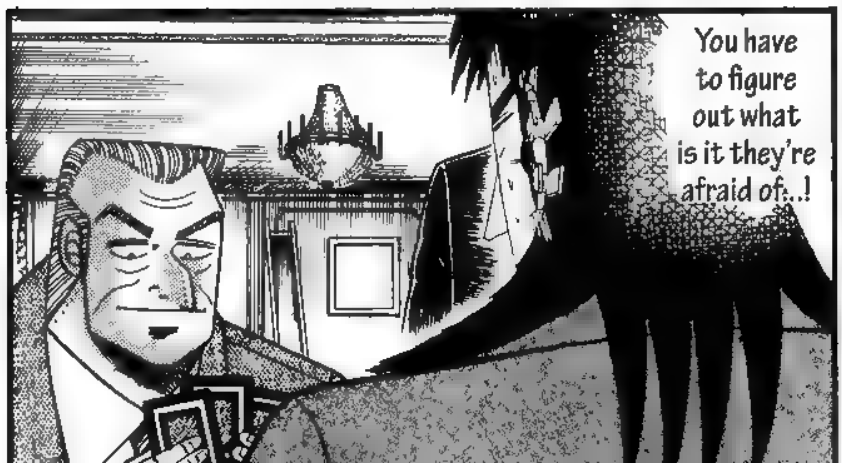
...
but to Tonegawa as well.
...
not only to myself
...

...he must be afraid too!

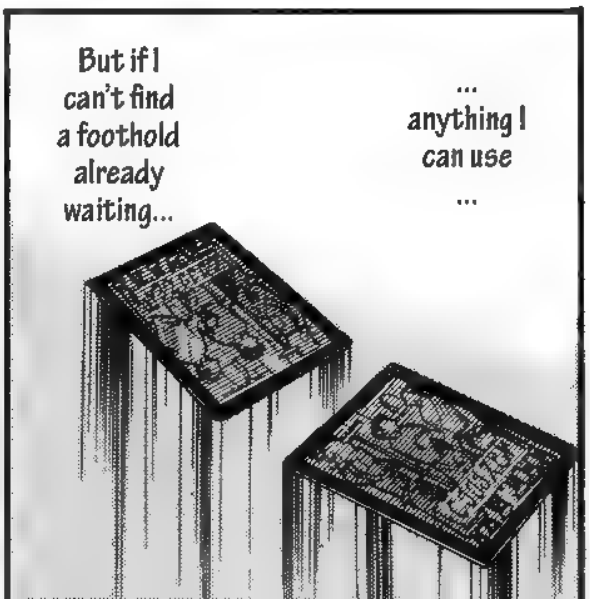
...
but when push comes to shove...
He may not show it, maybe not even a little...

...is your opponents fear.
...the thing which you need to intercept ...

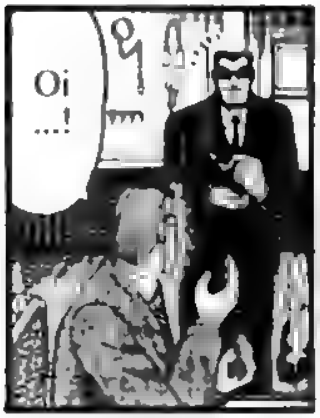

...
in this psychological game of Emperor ...
That means that ...


You have to figure out what is it they're afraid of...!

... then I'll just have to make one instead!



The specter of fear ...!
A crack in his mind ...


Oi ...!

.....

Let's see ...

PHEEWWW

.....
Sir ...!

.....
.....
This one ...!
Let's see ...
The second trick of the fifth match ...
The choice was made ...!
SCRTCH
FWIP

Pheww ...
Kaiji's lead ...!
My, my, my ...
.....
It feels like a long time when you're waiting ...
Three minutes ...
You finally decided ...
Hmph ...
... we placed a five minute limit on choosing?
Isn't it a good thing ...
See ...?
.....
...but I suppose it didn't seem long to you.

In Emperor ...
All that speculation is useless, kid. .
I told you before ...
.....
There's no reason to complicate things ...!
FWIP
... that's all you need!
... if you can just get a broad sense of things ...
Tonegawa ...
... chose his card without delay ...
... and set it down.
It was the second trick of the fifth match ...

Kaiji vs. Tonegawa !!

Play ...!

.....

Kaiji threw the Slave ...!
SLAVE
FWAP
SLAVE

ざわ・・・

Once again he had played Slave on the second trick ...!
Tonegawa ...
FWIP

FWAP
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…ざわ…
ざわ…
… threw Citizen!
38
It was Tonegawa's win …!
Ngh …!

And Kaiji's third loss in a row ...!

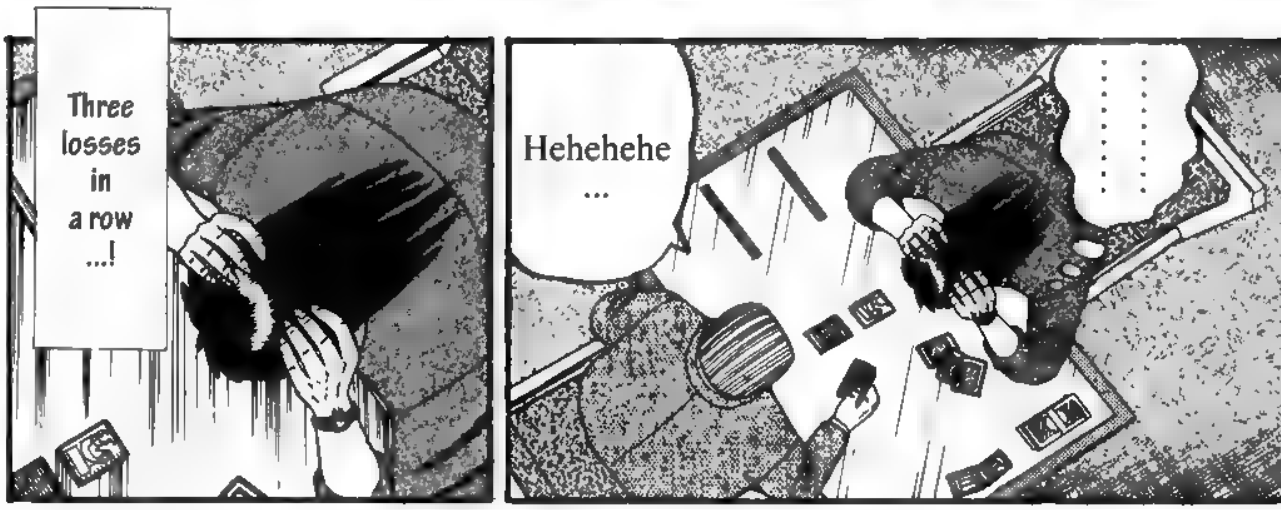
Let's get this over with then ...

Hehehe ...

WHRRRRR...

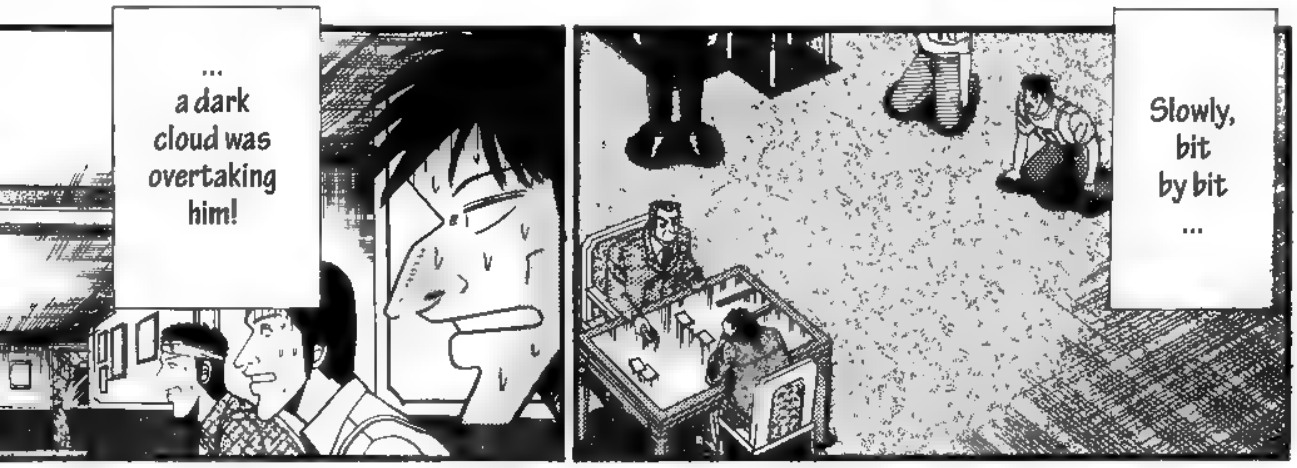
GO ...!
BEEP

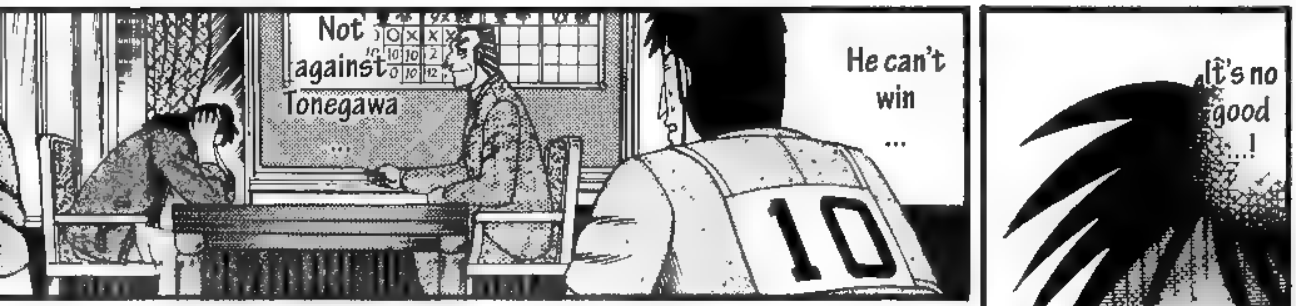
Hehehe
...
Hehehe
...
Ngh
...!
RRRRRRRRR...

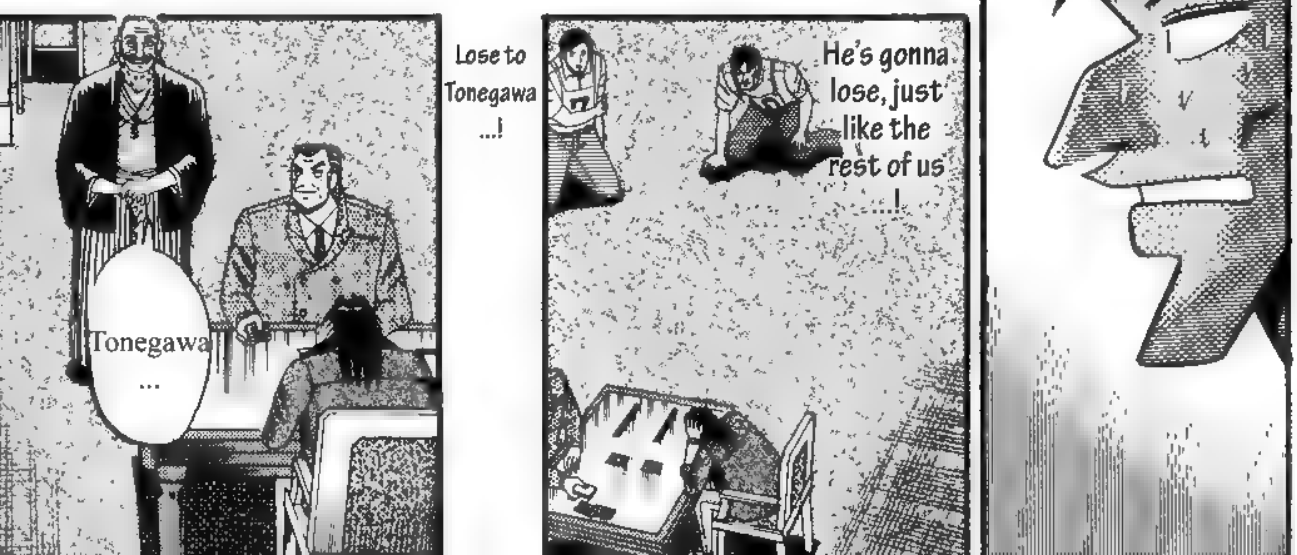

Three losses in a row ...!
Hehehehe
...
.....

... he had lost once again!
5
Slave
SQUEAK
X X
2 2
...as if Kaiji had finally hit upon some sort of strategy, in the end...
While it seemed ...

Emperor
Slave
A total of 14mm now.
The needle had simply advanced ...
He had earned nothing ...

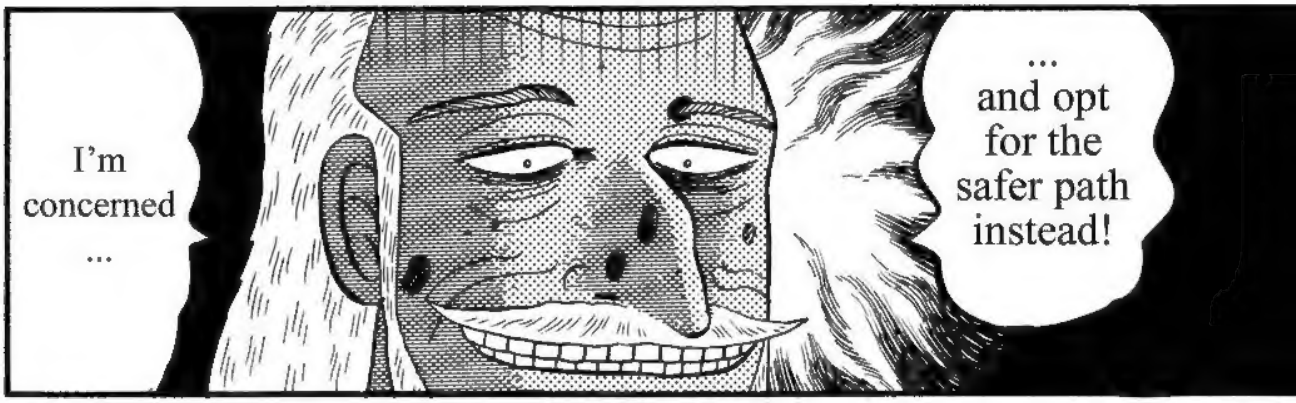

... a dark cloud was overtaking him!
Slowly, bit by bit ...


Not against Tonegawa ...
He can't win ...
10


Tonegawa ...
Lose to Tonegawa ...!
He's gonna lose, just like the rest of us ...!
It's no good ...!

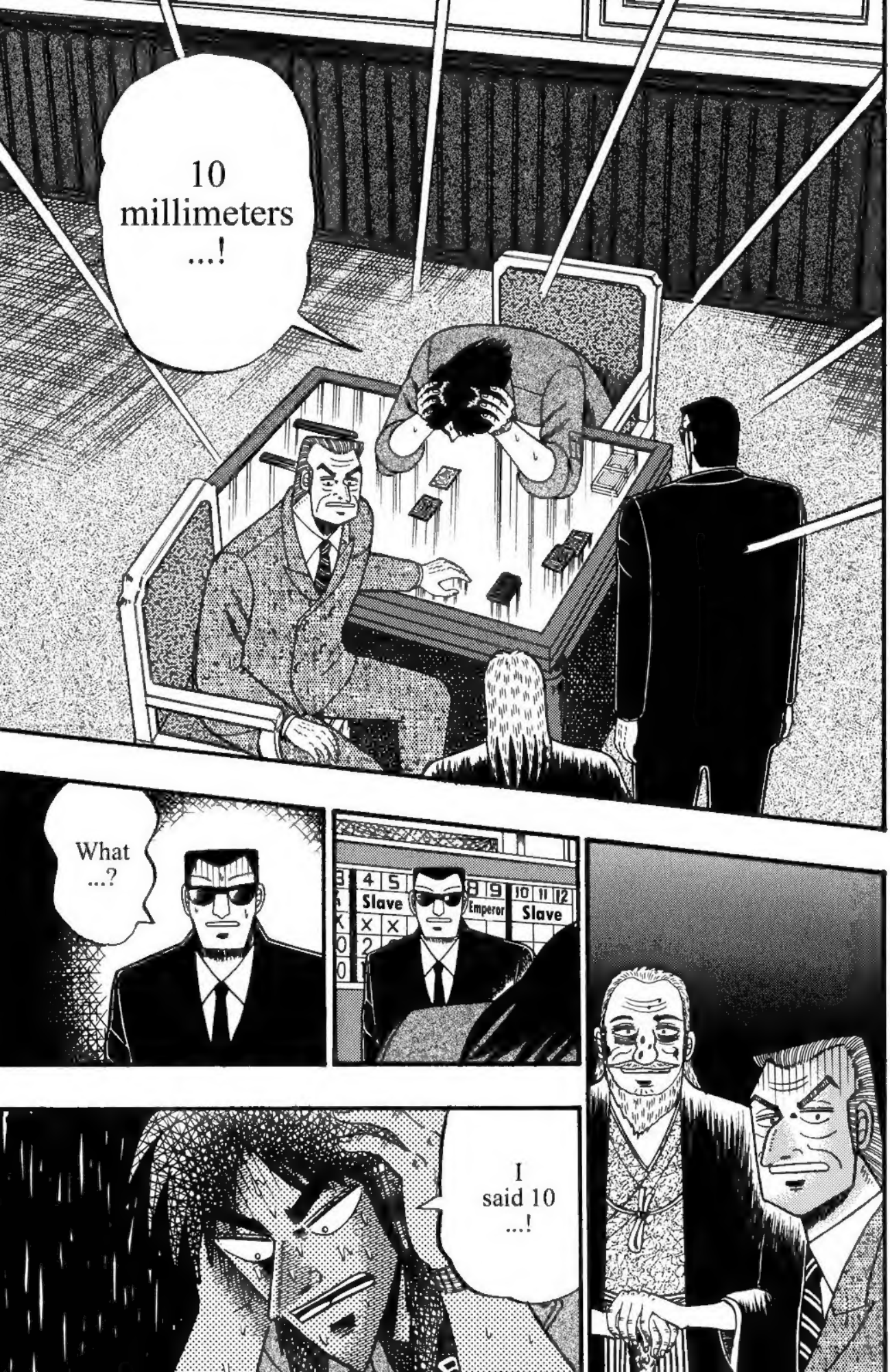
If you pull too far out ahead ...
... Kaiji-kun might give up ...

Don't you think ...
... that you should spare him a little more hope when you win?


I'm concerned ...
... and opt for the safer path instead!

What is your next bet ...?

... that he might throw in the towel.
Sir ...
Kaiji-sama ...


10 millimeters ...!
What ...?
Slave
Emperor
Slave
I said 10 ...!

End of Chapter 106

© Nobuyuki fukumoto

produced by HIGH STONE